

# EU Nature Restoration Law

## How Alpine issues can be highlighted ?

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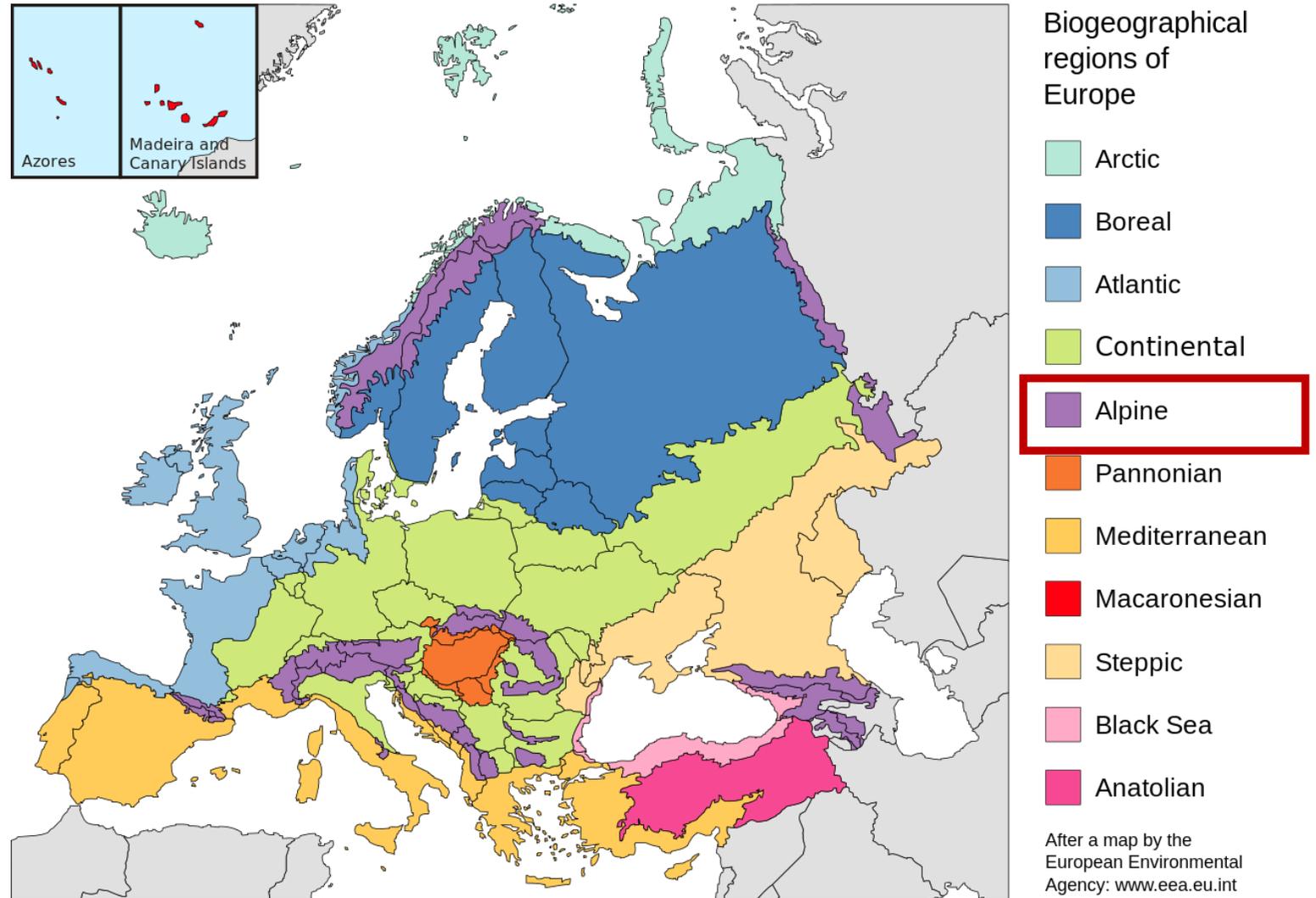
# The Alpine biogeographical region

in the *Annex I of the habitat directive* : 198 habitats and 65 priority

99 habitats are present in the Alpine region

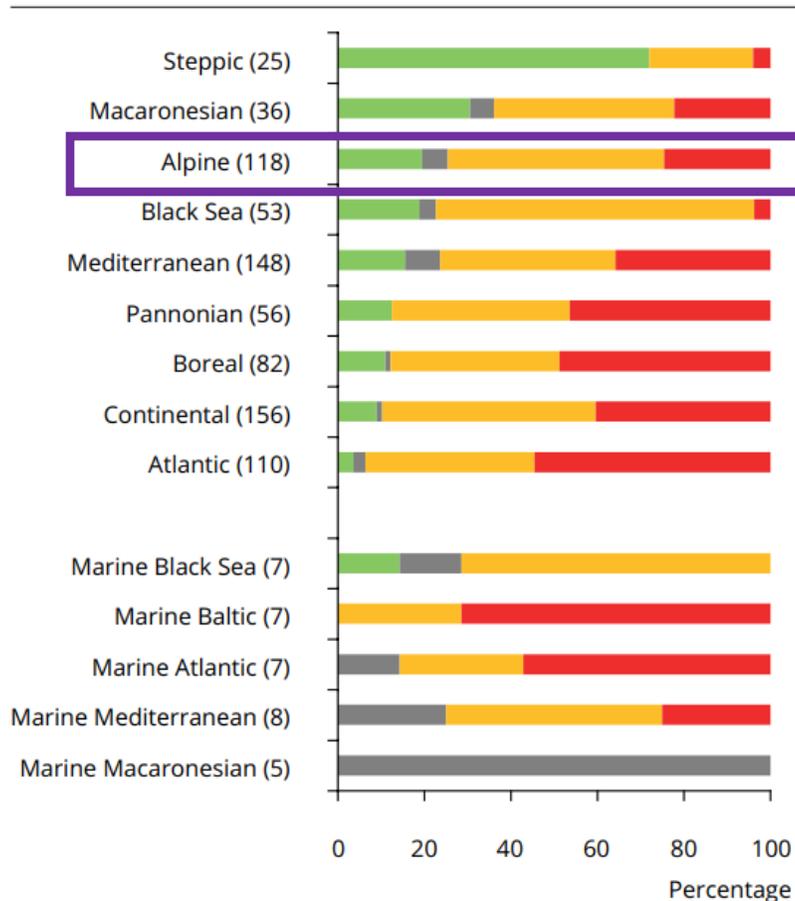
and 34 are priority

79 in Alps



# Habitats directive's report 2018 (EEA)

**Figure 3.7 Conservation status of habitats for each biogeographical and marine region at EU level**

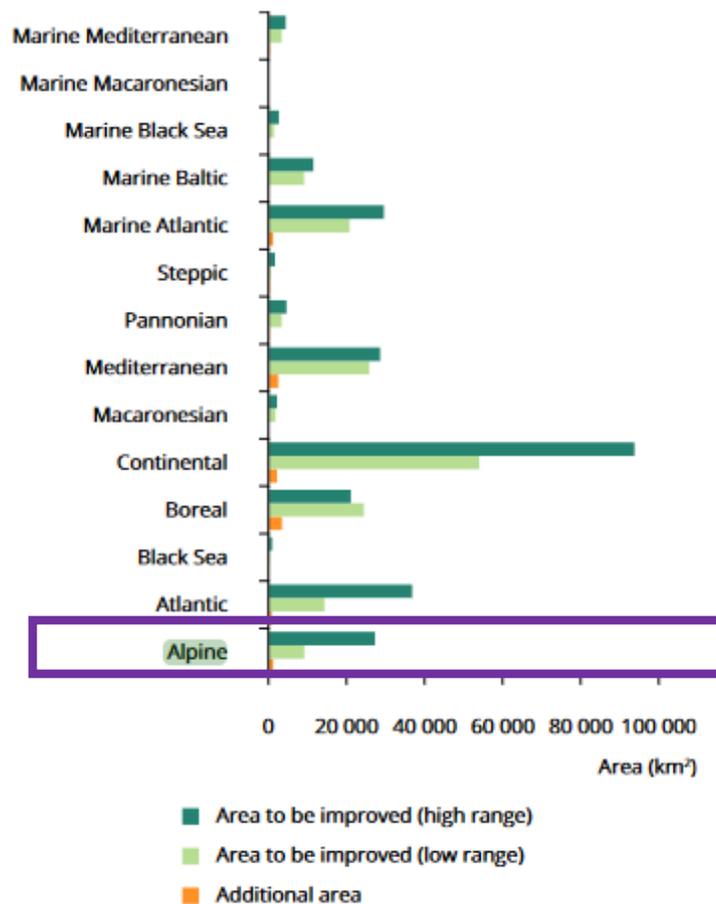


■ Good
 ■ Unknown
 ■ Poor
 ■ Bad

**Note:** Statistics are based on the number of EU habitat assessments. The number of assessments per region is indicated in parentheses. The total number of assessments is 818.

**Source:** Article 17 Member States' reports and EU assessments.

**Figure 4.25 Estimation of Annex I habitat areas to be improved and area to be created per region**

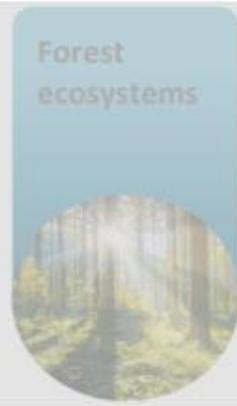
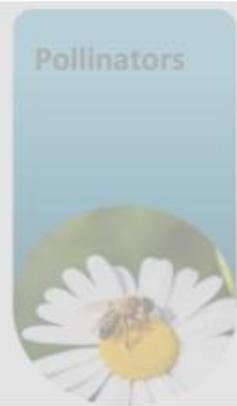
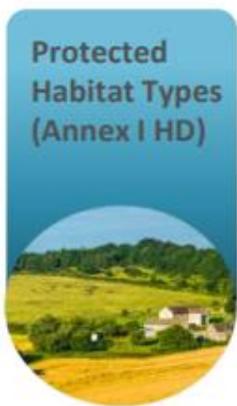


**Note:** 'Low' and 'high' range refer to the minimum and maximum areas in 'not good' condition as reported by Member States; 'additional' means the minimum areas to be re-created. The United Kingdom and habitat 8310 (caves) were excluded from the calculations.

**Source:** Article 17 Member States' reports and assessments.

The Habitats Directive reporting requires Member States to inform on the conservation status of habitats and species listed in the Annexes to the Directive.

Conservation status is the overall assessment of the status of a habitat type or a species at the scale of a Member State's biogeographical or marine region



## Terrestrial habitat types (HIC, Annex I) :

1. Wetlands (inland and coastal)
2. Forests
3. Meadows and pastoral habitats
4. Rivers, lakes and riparian habitats
5. Steppes, moors and thickets
6. Dune and rock habitats

## Protected species :

1. Terrestrial and marine species in appendices II, IV and V of the DHFF
2. Land and sea bird species covered by the DO
3. 25 Annex III marine species (sharks, rays, amphihalins, etc.)

## Marine habitat types (EUNIS units, Annex II) :

1. Sea grass beds
2. Macroalgal forests
3. Bivalve biocenosis
4. Maerl banks
5. Sponge, coral and coralligenous biocenosis
6. Hydrothermal springs and cold fluid springs
7. Unconsolidated sediment at depths of less than 1000 metres

## Terrestrial and marine habitat types :

→ Implement **restoration measures on surfaces in "poor" condition**

✓ At least 30% of degraded areas by 2030, 60% by 2040, 90% by 2050

→ **Implement restoration measures to recreate lost surfaces**

✓ on at least 30% of additional surfaces by 2030, 60% by 2040, 100% by 2050

## Protected species :

→ **Implement restoration measures to improve, re-establish and reconnect species habitats**

✓ *Achieving "sufficient" habitat quality and quantity for species*

✓ Obligation to continuously improve the condition of surfaces being restored

✓ Obligation not to deteriorate restored surfaces (good condition achieved)

✓ Non-deterioration clause (inside and outside the Natura 2000 network)

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# Specific objectives: quantified indicators (articles 6 - 10)



## Selection of biodiversity criteria :

1. The indicator provides direct information on the state of biodiversity or the ecological quality of the ecosystem.
  - *On this basis, pressure indicators have been excluded, as they are often indirect indicators of biodiversity.*
2. EU-wide data are readily available or will soon be, and are reliable and regularly updated.
  - *Each member state will have to define a "satisfactory" value for certain indicators by 2030.*

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# Specific objectives: quantified indicators (articles 6 - 10)

## Article 6 - Urban ecosystems

- No loss of tree cover and surface area green spaces
- Increase the surface area of green spaces in each city by 5% in 2050 compared with 2021
- Minimum 10% tree cover by 2050
- Increased integration of green spaces into new infrastructures



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# Specific objectives: quantified indicators (articles 6 - 10)

## Article 7 - Rivers and streams

- Identify all obstacles to surface water connectivity (**lateral** and **longitudinal**) and eliminate them (obsolete barriers as a priority), in order to contribute to :
  - Floodplain restoration
  - Restore ecological continuity to 25,000 km of rivers by 2030 ("free-flowing rivers").



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# Specific objectives: quantified indicators (articles 6 - 10)

## Article 8 - Pollinators

- Reverse the decline in pollinator populations by 2030
- Improve population status after 2030, until a "satisfactory" level is reached
- The EU Pollinator Initiative offers several tools:
  - *Identify Key Pollination Areas by 2025*
  - *Delineate BUZZ LINES by 2027*
  - *Develop a standardized European method for pollinator monitoring*
  - *Add lists of typical pollinator species for all Annex I habitats*



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Italian delegation  
alpine convention



Federal Agency for  
Nature Conservation



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THE ALPINE REGION



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# Specific objectives: quantified indicators (articles 6 - 10)

## Article 9 - Agro-ecosystems

- Restore agricultural ecosystems, in addition to measures taken under article 4 (habitats and habitats of terrestrial species)
- Increase agricultural biodiversity indicator values (until a satisfactory level is reached):
  - Grassland butterfly index
  - Farmland bird Index
  - Soil organic carbon stock
  - Agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features
- Implement measures to restore peatlands drained for agricultural use (30% in 2030, 50% in 2040, 70% in 2050) (¼ (2030) and ½ (2040 and 2050) to be re-watered)



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# Specific objectives: quantified indicators (articles 6 - 10)

## Article 10 - Forests

- Restore forest ecosystems, in addition to measures taken under article 4 (habitats and habitats of terrestrial species)
- Increase forest biodiversity indicator values (until a satisfactory level is reached):
  - *Standing and ground deadwood*
  - *Percentage of forests in irregular high forest*
  - *Connectivity*
  - *Common forest bird index*
  - *Soil organic carbon stock*



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# The national restoration plan's content

- ➔ The national restoration plan shall cover the period up to 2050, with intermediate deadlines
- ➔ the quantification of the areas to be restored to reach the restoration targets
- ➔ a description of the restoration measures planned
- ➔ the inventory of barriers and the barriers identified for removal
- ➔ an indication of the measures to ensure that the areas covered by habitat types listed in Annexes I in good conditions do not deteriorate

# Technical issues

- Specify areas covered by habitats
  - Define "good status" and specify the status of areas covered by habitats
  - Calculate favorable reference areas
  - Define species needs in terms of habitat quality, quantity and connectivity
  - Fill knowledge gaps in reporting of the European directive (unknown status)
  - Define restoration measures, demonstrate their effectiveness and ensure non-degradation
- + transboundary issues

# Strategic issues

- Coherence / coordination of the national plan restoration
- One alpine plan ? One paragraph in each national plan ?
- common priorities ?
- ...

# Thank you !

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