

A photograph of a forest stream. The water flows over rocks and fallen branches. The ground is covered in fallen red and orange leaves. Large mossy rocks are visible on the right side of the stream. The background shows a dense forest with bare trees.

‘Peatlands’ in the State of Nature 2020

Carlos Romão | ‘Bring Back Bogs’ EP | 3 December 2020

The State of nature in the EU – overview

- **Results from reporting under the nature directives 2013-2018**
- Reports every 6 years
- Over 200 000 people involved (60 % volunteers) – EU27 + UK
- In addition and based in MS reports, EU assessments for
 - **Birds** (EC contract, BirdLife)
 - **Habitats and other species** (EEA and ETC on Biological Diversity)
- **460** species of wild birds (all EU species)
- **1 389** species other animals and plants (selection)
- **233** habitat types (selection)
(e.g. reefs, dunes, grasslands, rivers, peatlands, forests,...)



'Peatlands' in the Habitats Directive (EU27)

18 habitats

(out of 233)

Area 172 000 km²
(average reported by MS)

Wet heaths	3 828
Grasslands	6 806
Sphagnum acid bogs	61 145
Calcareous fens	17 739
Boreal mires	36 445
Bog woodland	46 093

ANNEX I HABITAT TYPES SELECTED

Wet heaths

- 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*
- 4020 * Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *Erica tetralix*

Grasslands

- 6410 *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt- laden soils
- 6460 Peat grasslands of *Troodos*

Sphagnum acid bogs

- 7110 Active raised bogs
- 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
- 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog)
- 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs
- 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*
- 7160 Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and springfens

Calcareous fens

- 7210 Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*
- 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)
- 7230 Alkaline fens
- 7240 Alpine pioneer formations of *Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae*

Boreal mires

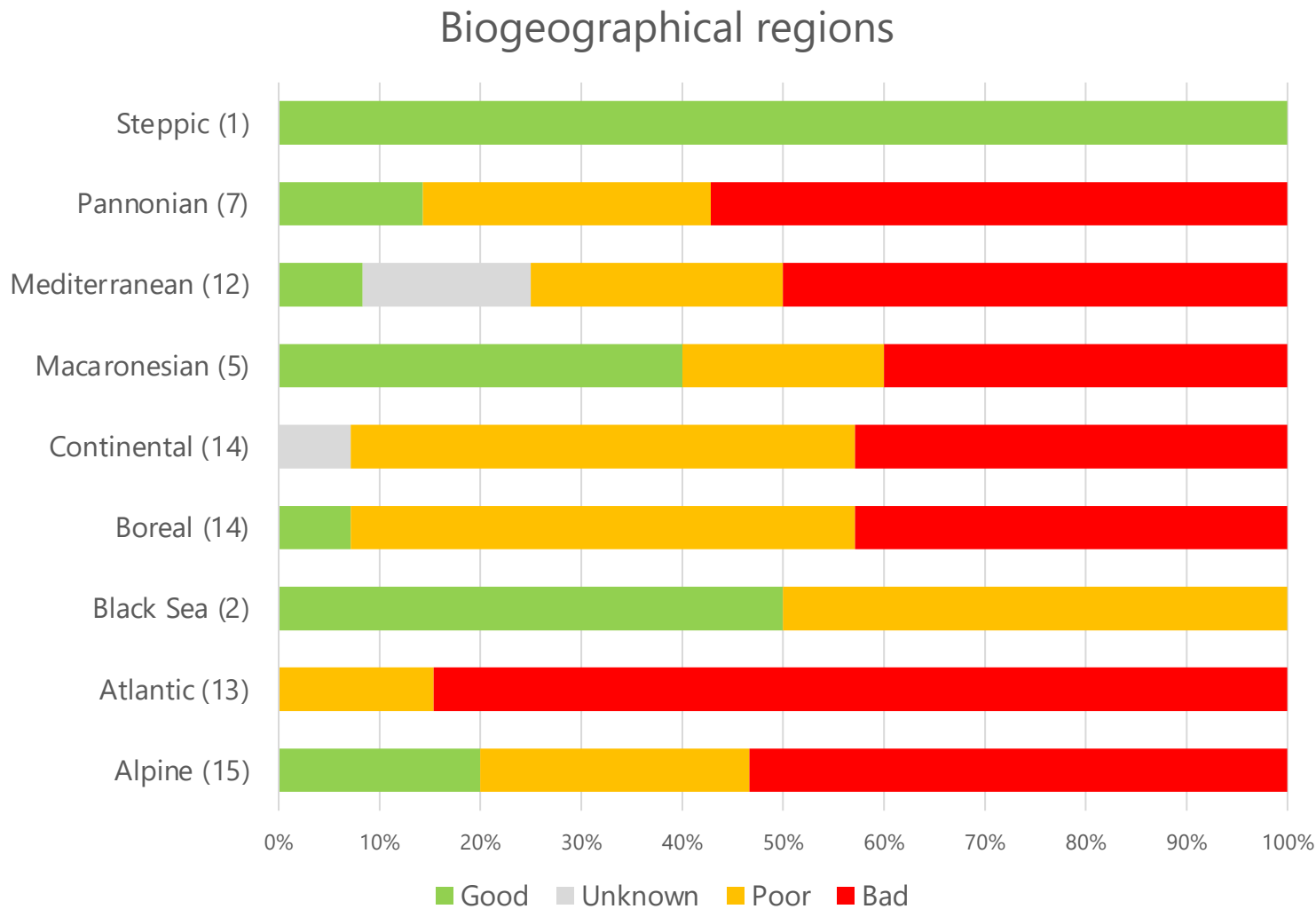
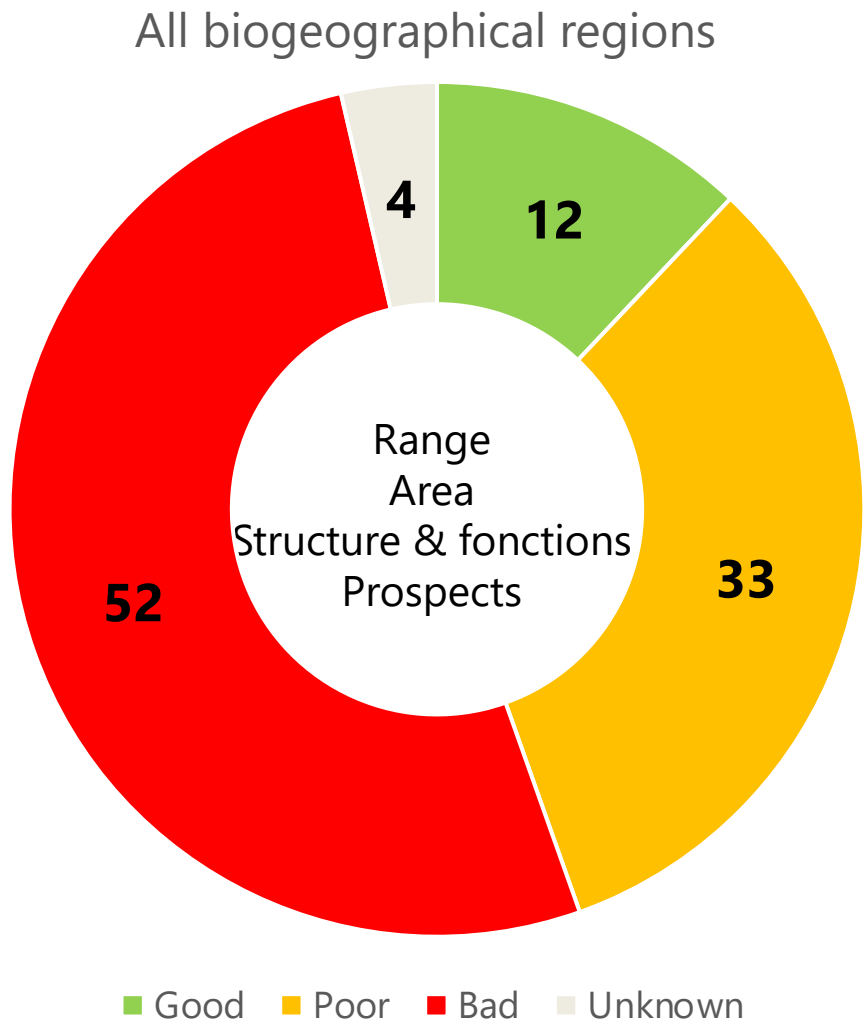
- 7310 Aapa mires
- 7320 Palsa mires

Bog woodland

- 9080 Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods
- 91D0 Bog woodland

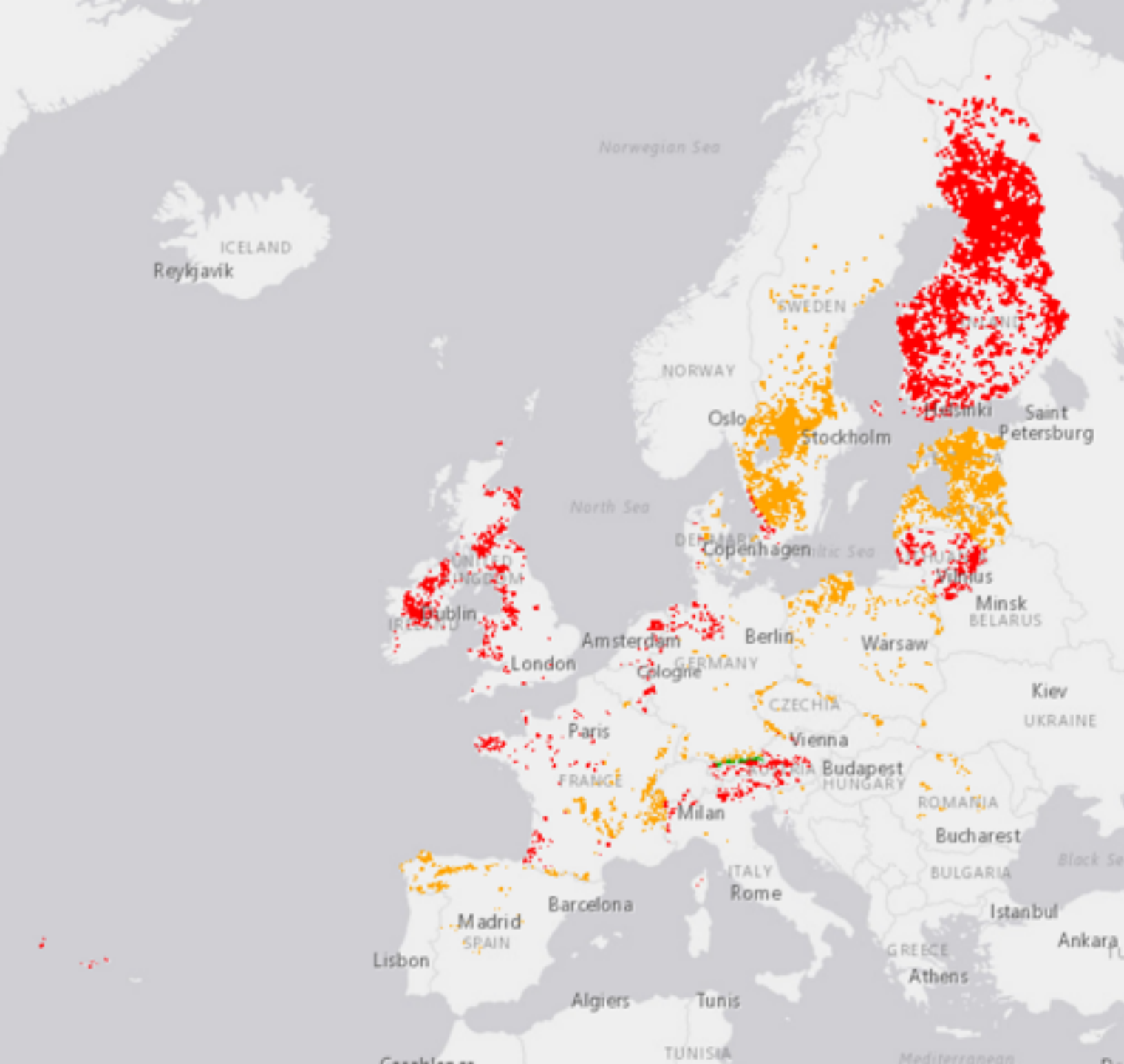


'Peatlands' – EU conservation status (EU27 – UK)



85 % unfavourable status (poor & bad)

7110 – Active raised bogs

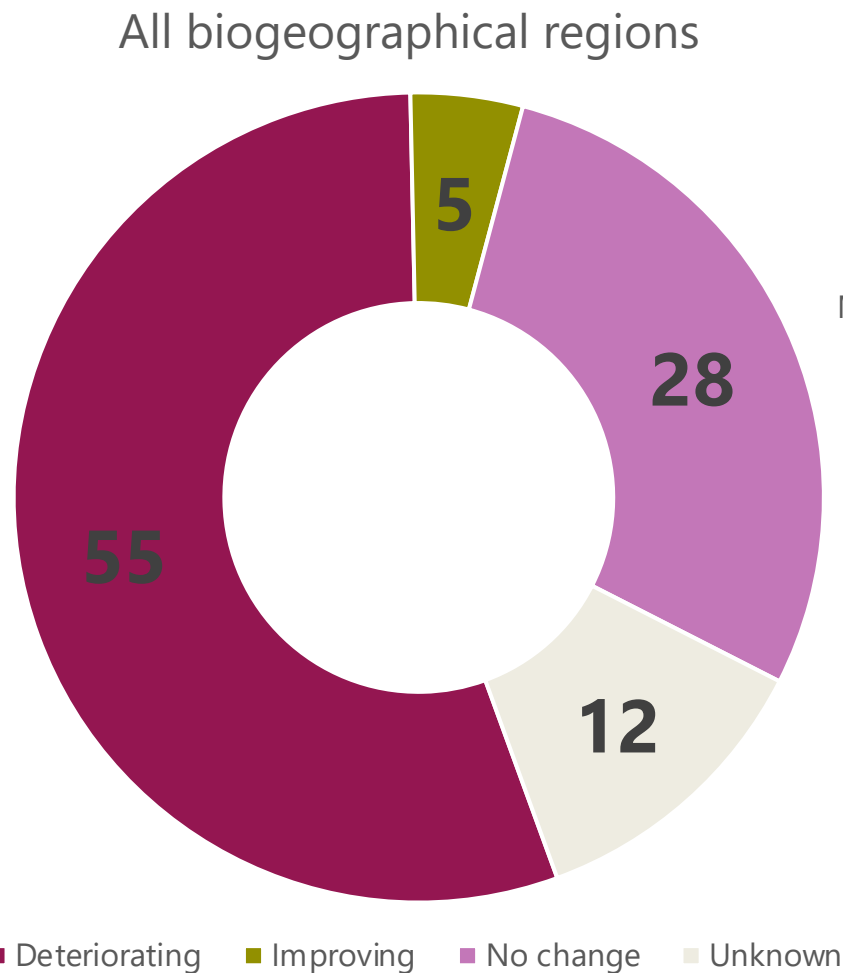


Reported distribution
(10 km x 10 km)

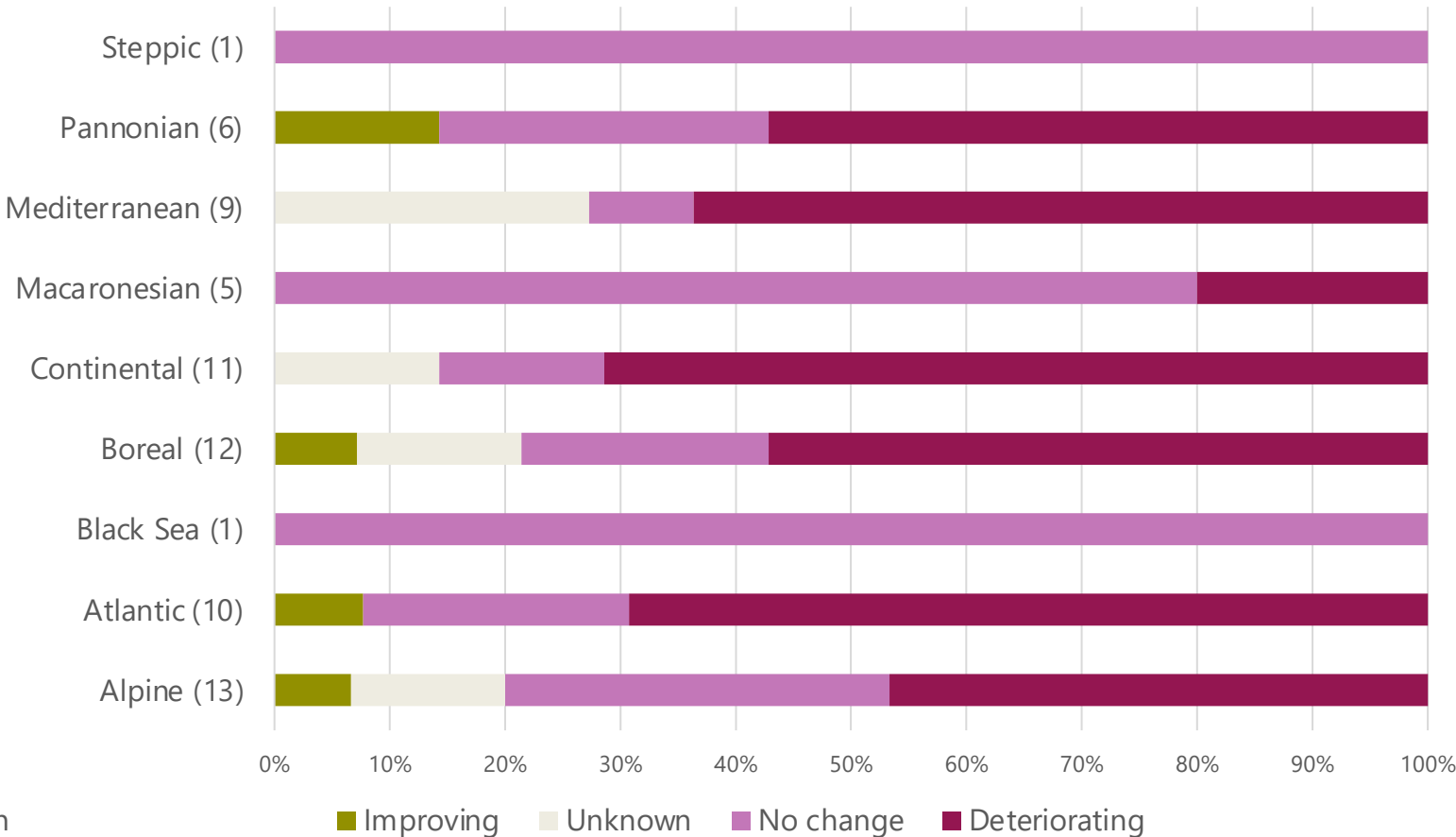
Conservation status
at MS-biogeographical region

Source: Article 17 web tool

'Peatlands' – EU conservation status trends (EU27 + UK)

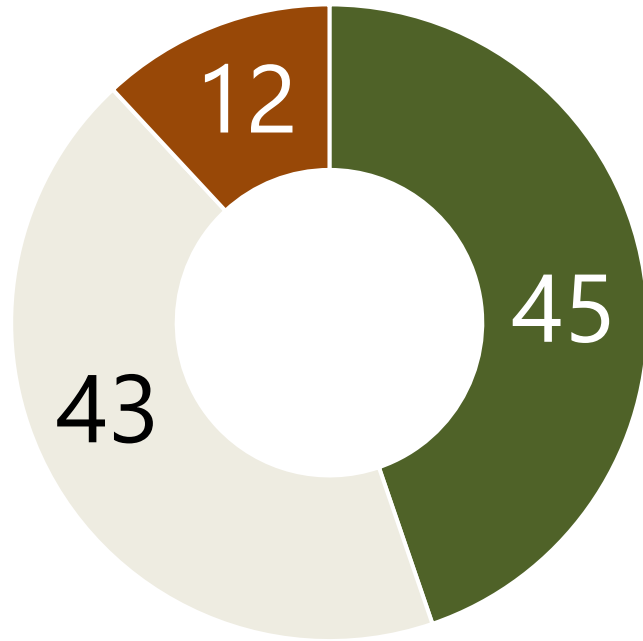


Biogeographical regions



55 % poor/bad status & getting worse

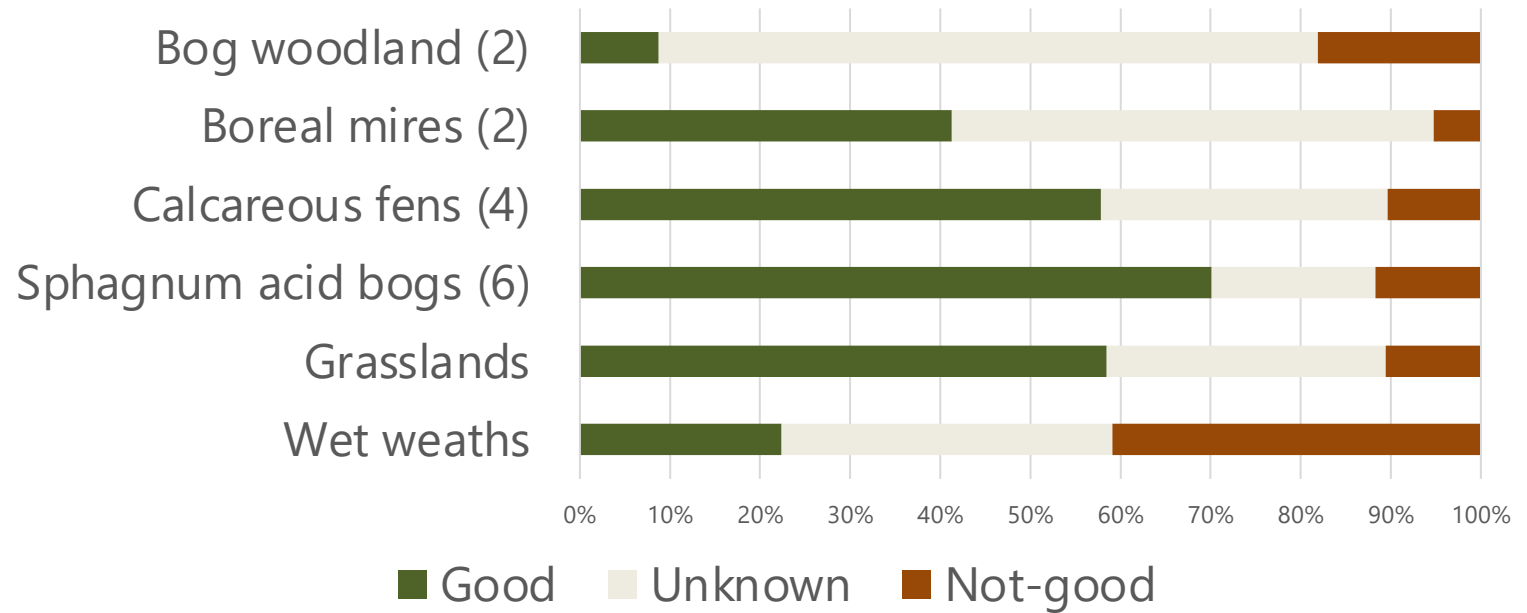
'Peatlands' – condition of habitats and restoration (EU27)



■ Good ■ Unknown ■ Not-good

Too much unknown

Minimum 90 % good condition for
'good' status of structure and
fonctions



RESTORATION (absolute minimum)

18 'peatland' habitats

To be (re)created ~ 3 000 km²

To be improved ~ 22 000 km²

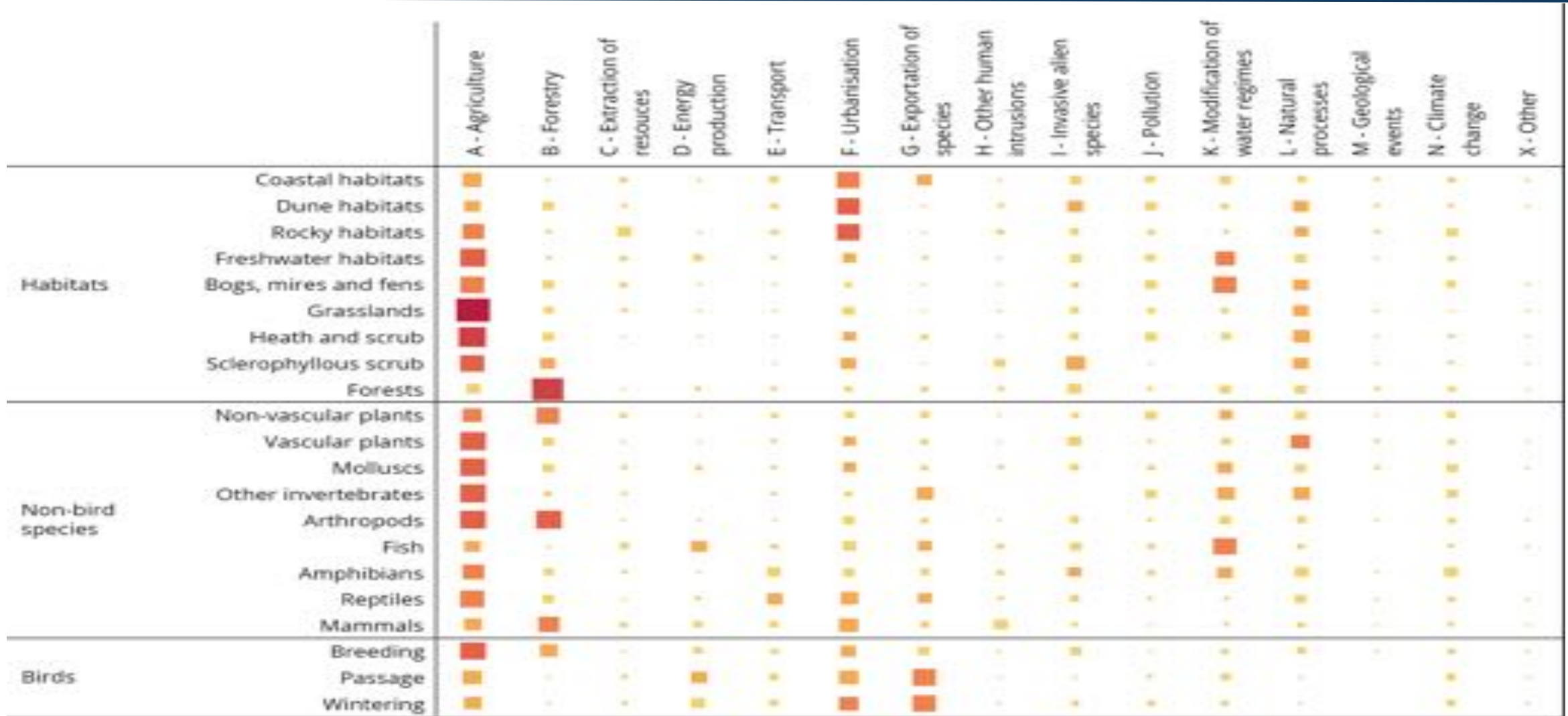
Pressures



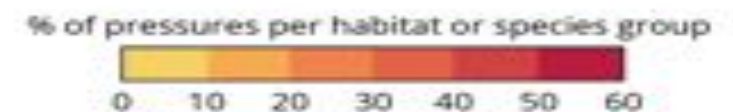
@ Rayya Kartal, Sustainably Yours /EEA

@ Kayhan Guc, Sustainably Yours /EEA

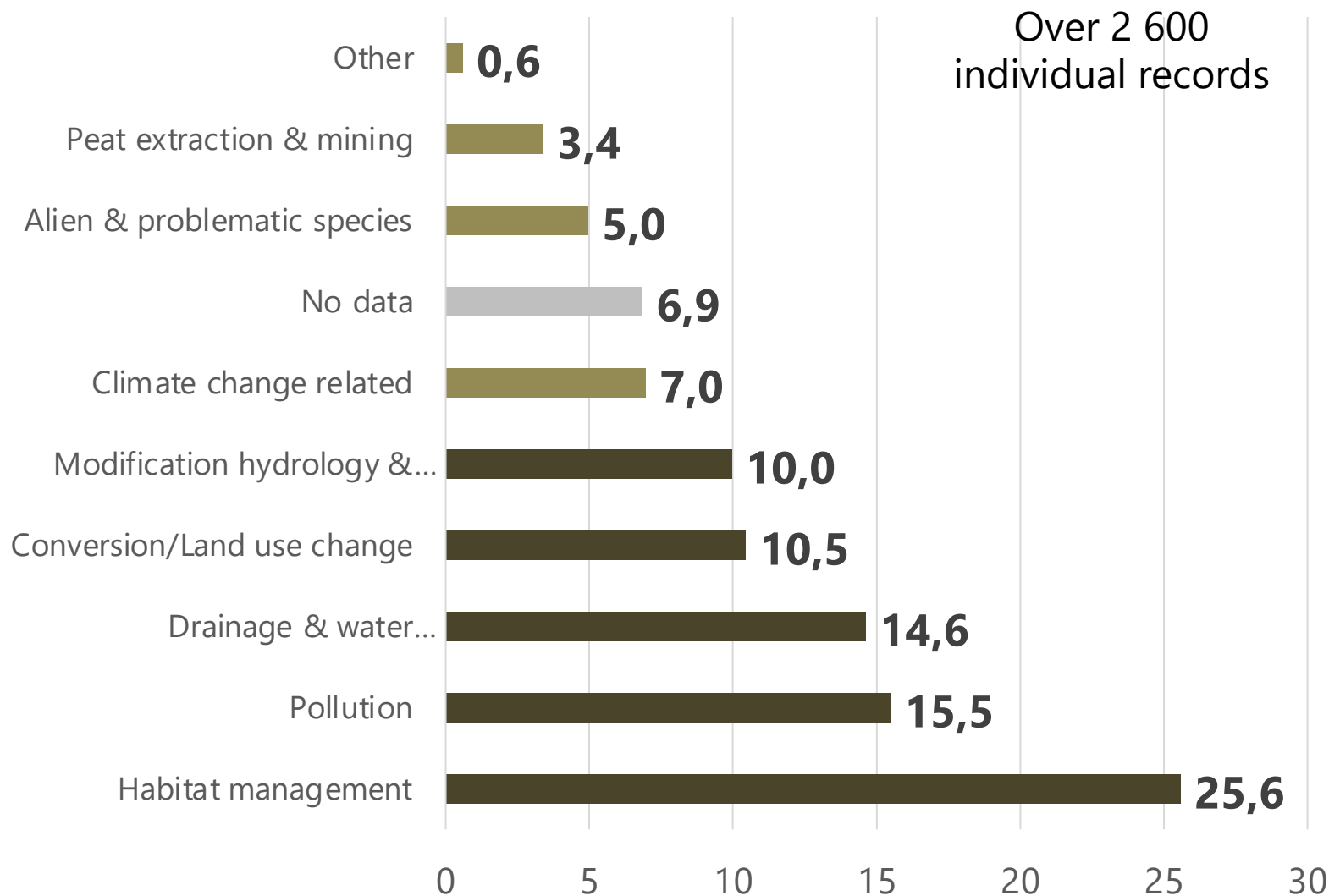
Pressures



67 000 individual pressures reported by Member States



Pressures – ‘peatlands’



Top 5 (66 %)

- Habitat management
- Pollution
- Drainage/abstraction
- Conversion/Land use change
- Changes water flow / river infrastructure

Wetlands



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

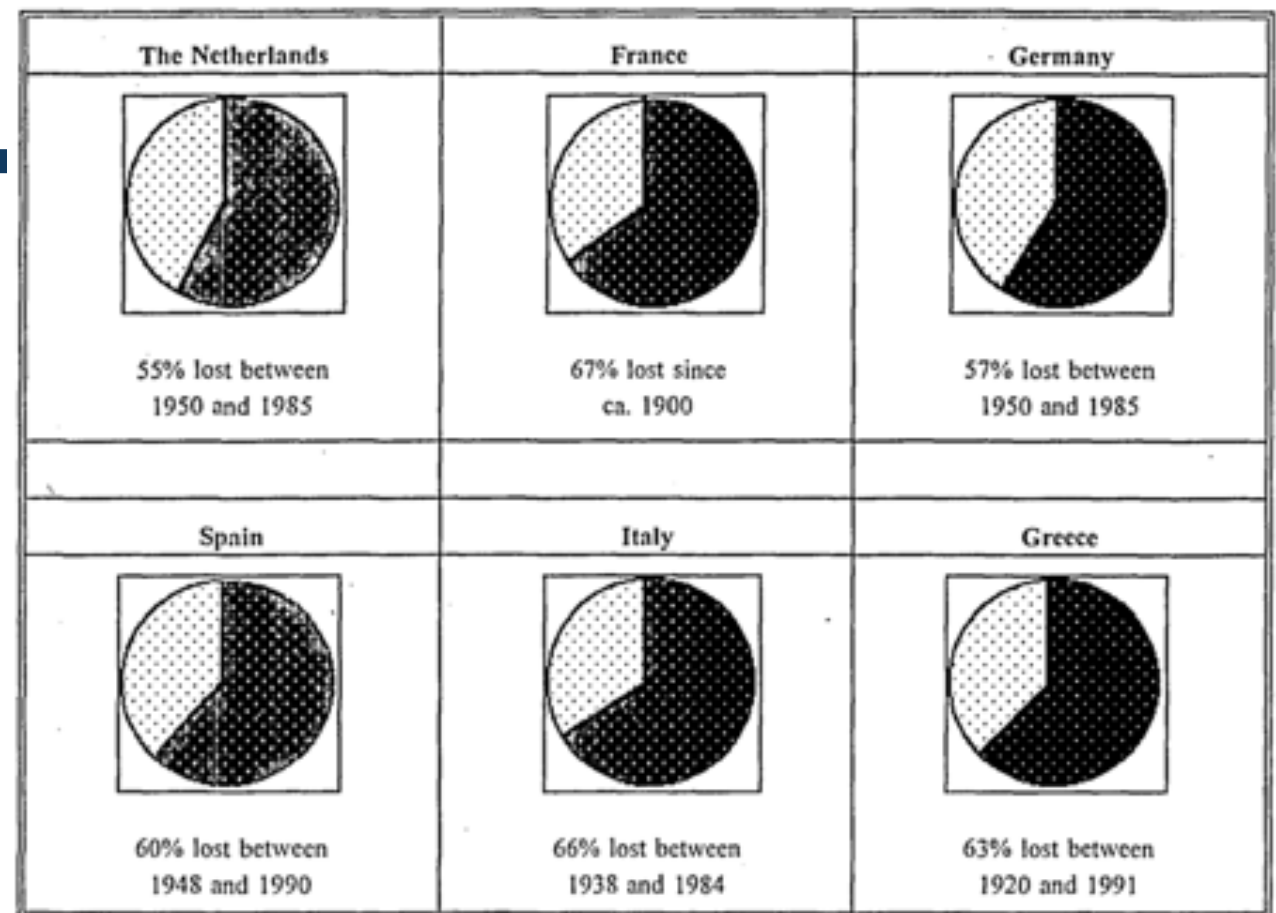
Brussels, 29.05.1995
COM(95) 189 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION
TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WISE USE AND CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS

2/3 lost in 20th century

- River and floodplain wetlands
- Wet meadows, flooded grassland, temporary freshwater marshes
- Saltmarshes
- Peatlands



Sources:

Netherlands and Germany: – OECD. 1989. Environmental Data Compendium 1989. OECD, Paris. (Marshes excepted for Germany)

France: – Ministère de l'environnement, 1993. Proceedings of the Fifth Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention. Kushiro, Japan, June 1993. National report for France.

Spain: – Casado, S., Florin M., Molla S. & Montes C., 1992. Current status of Spanish wetlands. in Finlayson, M., Hollis, T. & Davis, T. (Eds.) Managing Mediterranean Wetlands and their Birds. Proceedings of an IWRB International Symposium, Grado, Italy, February 1991. IWRB Special Publication N° 20, 1992, GB. Istituto Nazionale di Biologia della Selvaggina, Italy. Pages 56-58

Italy: – ISTAT & ISMEA in Angle, T.G., 1992. La scomparsa degli ambienti naturali. in Habitat-Guida alla Gestione degli ambienti naturali - 140p. WWF, CFS (Eds). Pages 11-17.

Greece: – Psilovikos, A., 1992. Prospects for wetland and waterfowl in Greece. in Finlayson, M., Hollis, T. & Davis, T. (Eds.) Managing Mediterranean Wetlands and their Birds. Proceedings of an IWRB International Symposium, Grado, Italy, February 1991. IWRB Special Publication N° 20, 1992, GB. Istituto Nazionale di Biologia della Selvaggina, Italy. Pages 53-55

Figure 1: Estimated Recent Wetland Loss in some European Union Member States.

Wetlands – MAES assessment (EU27 + UK)



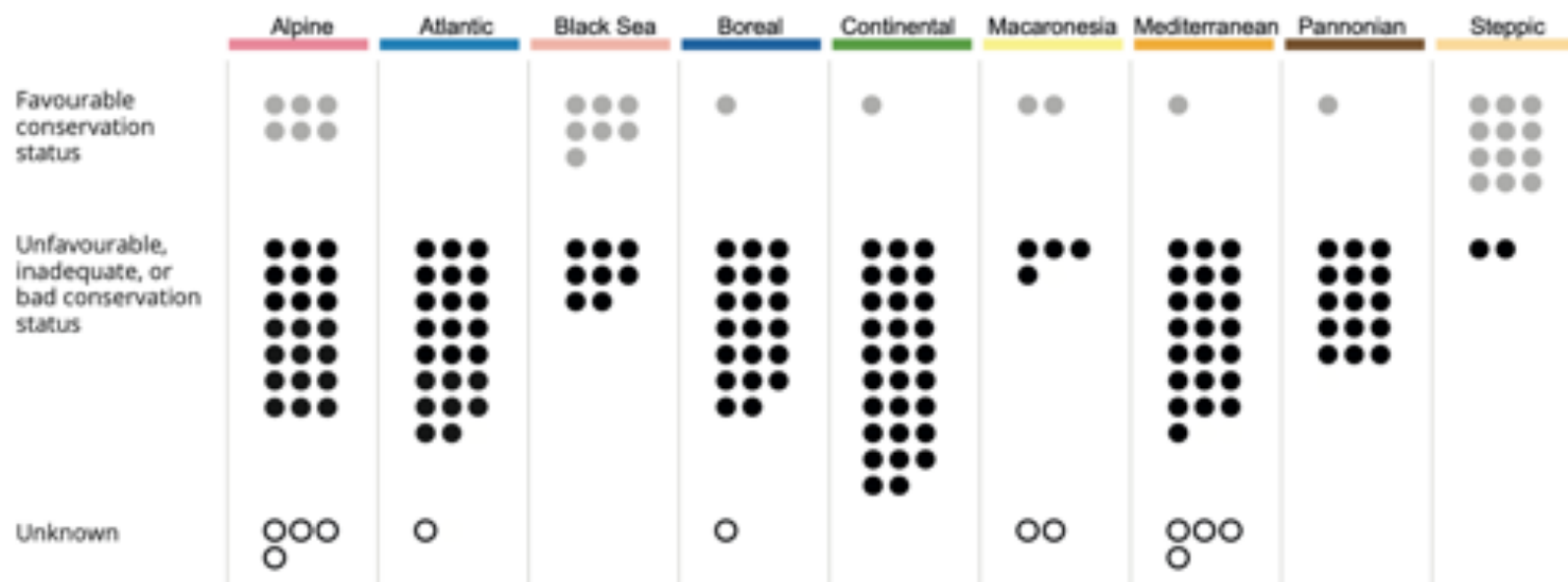
- Despite some improvements wetlands are in a **very poor condition** due to conversion, high levels of eutrophication (agriculture) and increasing impacts of climate change (droughts)
- **Managed wetlands** (30% of MAES inland wetlands) are reported as **net emitters of carbon** (LULUCF)
- **Restoring wetlands** to good condition results, amongst many other benefits, in net carbon uptake and better flood protection of people
- In contrast to rivers and lakes, wetlands have **insufficiently profited from their legal designation** under the EU environmental directives
- A **coherent policy framework** for wetlands is lacking and urgently needed

Floodplain habitats (EU27 + UK)



Figure 2.6 Conservation status of Europe's floodplains across biogeographical regions

Number of floodplain habitats per biogeographic region (2013-2018)



37 floodplain habitats

17 % good conservation status

79 % poor or bad

Member State	2000	2018	gain / loss 2000-2018
Sweden	29 415.5	29 400.8	- 14.6
Finland	20 959.9	20 926.5	- 33.4
Ireland	9 993.6	9 586.3	- 407.3
Latvia	1 425.5	1 435.0	9.5
Estonia	1 319.2	1 331.3	12.1
Germany	740.2	741.9	1.7
Lithuania	396.2	396.1	- 0.1
Denmark	259.1	240.4	- 18.8
Poland	91.3	89.6	- 1.7
Hungary	89.2	89.4	0.2
Netherlands	77.4	81.1	3.7
Belgium	50.1	55.1	5.0
France	49.8	50.0	0.2
Portugal	47.8	47.8	0.0
Czechia	46.9	45.7	- 1.2
Austria	14.5	14.5	0.0
Bulgaria	13.1	13.1	0.0
Italy	4.1	4.1	0.0
Spain	2.4	2.3	- 0.1
Slovakia	2.1	2.1	0.0
Greece	0.6	0.6	0.0
TOTAL	64 998.5	64 553.7	- 444.8

Corine Land Cover 2000-2018

Peat bogs (class 412, EU27)

477 km² lost

- 85 % in Ireland
- 7 % in Finland
- 4 % in Denmark
- 3 % in Sweden

32 km² gained

Net loss = 445 km² (ca. 1 %)

Useful links

- **EEA SoN main web page**
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/biodiversity/state-of-nature-in-the-eu>
- **Explore the nature reporting data**
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/biodiversity/state-of-nature-in-the-eu/explore-nature-reporting-data>
- **State of Nature 2020 press release and report**
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/latest-evaluation-shows-europes-nature>
- **MAES ecosystem assessment final report**
<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC120383>
- **BISE - Biodiversity Information System for Europe**
<https://biodiversity.europa.eu/>

Thank you

SIIN VOIB PAIKESE-
LOOJANGU& KUHATA
NAKKI.

HERE YOU CAN
SPOT A MERMAID
AT SUNSET.
