



Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

Mediterranean Region

Habitats for priority consideration

Final list agreed at the 2nd Steering Committee (Brussels, 24 April 2013)

An initiative
of the





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1 Selection process

The selection process for the habitats for priority consideration within the Mediterranean Biogeographical Process started with the drafting of a pre-scoping document by the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity on the basis of Article 17 reporting data. This document was presented to the Mediterranean Steering Committee at its first meeting on 21 February 2013.

The presentation of the Draft Pre Scoping Document was followed by an email consultation among the Mediterranean Steering Committee members about the 'top 20' habitats for priority consideration, at least 15 of which had to come from the top 20 list prepared by the ETC BD and up to five could be additionally proposed.

This resulted in a first habitats selection document that was sent to the SC members prior to the second Steering Committee meeting in Brussels on 24 April 2013. At that meeting, the contractor presented the results of the consultation among Member States and Stakeholders (conservation NGOs represented by the European Habitats Forum, EHF, and Natura 2000 users, represented by the European Landowners Organisation, ELO) for the selection of the habitats for priority consideration within the Mediterranean region. All Member States with the exception of Croatia and Spain had submitted their selections based on the preliminary list established by the European Topic Centre on Biodiversity. The 'top-20 list' of habitats provided the basis for a discussion on the final selection of habitat types and clusters. Species associated with selected habitat types were also listed.

2 Results

The following habitat groups were agreed for the Mediterranean region:

Habitat Group 1: Coastal habitats

CODE		HABITAT
1120	submerged	Posidonia beds (<i>Posidonion oceanicae</i>)
1110	submerged	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
1150	tidal	Coastal lagoons
1170	submerged	Reefs
1310	tidal	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand
1410	tidal	Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)
1420	tidal	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)
2110	dune	Embryonic shifting dunes
2230	dune	Malcolmietalia dune grasslands
2250	dune	Coastal dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp.

Habitat Group 2: Forest habitats

CODE	HABITAT
9320	Olea and Ceratonia forests
9260	Castanea sativa woods
9540	Mediterranean pine forests with endemic Mesogean pines
9330	Quercus suber forests
9340	Quercus ilex and Quercus rotundifolia forests

Habitat Group 3: Freshwater habitats

CODE	HABITAT
92A0	Salix alba and Populus alba galleries
92D0	Southern riparian galleries and thickets (Nerio-Tamaricetea and Securinegion tinctoriae)
3290	Intermittently flowing Mediterranean rivers of the Paspalo-Agrostidion
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds

Habitat group 4: Grassland, Heaths & Scrubs

CODE	HABITAT
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites)
6220	Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the Thero-Brachypodietea
5330	Thermo-Mediterranean and pre-desert scrub
6310	Dehesas with evergreen Quercus spp