COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 6 August 2014 **T-PVS/PA (2014) 4**
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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

GROUP OF EXPERTS ON PROTECTED AREAS AND ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS

INFORMATION FORMS
FOR FOUR NEW HABITATS PROPOSED TO BE ADDED TO RESOLUTION NO.4 (1996) BY SWITZERLAND

Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance

Table of Contents

DATE: 30.06.2014…….

Proposed by: Switzerland..... (Countries)

Information Form for species or habitats to be included in:

☐ **Appendix I:** Strictly protected flora species

☐ **Appendix II:** Strictly protected fauna species

☐ **Appendix III:** Protected fauna species

and

☐ **Resolution (1998) 6:** Species requiring specific habitat conservation measures

or

☒ **Resolution (1996) 4:** Endangered natural habitats requiring conservation measures

Species proposal

Latin Name (incl. Author + Year):…….
Latin Synonyms: .....
Source of the scientific name: .....

Vernacular name:
English Name: .....
French Name: .....
other: (specify language):.....

Systematics:
Phylum: .....
Class: .....
Order: .....
Family: .....

Habitat proposal

EUNIS Habitat code: **C3.2**.....

Habitat title: Water fringing reedbeds and other tall helophytes other than canes

Habitat Definition: (only if a new subdivision in the EUNIS classification is suggested)
…….

Proposal for amending Res. 6 or Res. 4: additional information needed						
Name of Biogeographical Region(s) in which the species or habitat occurs (please mark with "x")						
☒ **Alpine**	☐	**Anatolian**	☐	**Artic**	☒	**Atlantic**
☒ **Black Sea**	☒	**Boreal**	☒	**Continental**	☐	**Macaronesia**
☒ **Mediterranean**	☒	**Pannonic**	☒	**Steppic**		
Marine region: (if a marine region map is adopted by the SC):						
Is the Species or Habitat present in EUR 27: ☒ Yes ☐ No						

Other International Conventions, Instruments and Agreements:
(Please mark with "x" if mentioned)

Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention):
Annex I ☐
Annex II ☐

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES):
Annex 1 ☐
Annex 2 ☐

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR)
Ref. 2008-6 part 1 ☐
Ref. 2008-6 part 2 ☐

Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
Annex I ☐
Annex II ☐
Annex IV ☐
Annex V ☐

Directive 2009/147/EC (79/409/EEC amended) on the conservation of wild birds
Annex I ☐
Annex II ☐
Annex III ☐

Other: (Barcelona Convention, IUCN red data books, etc ……)

Short Description / Distinguishing Characteristics

European Interest
Please mark with "X" for which of the following criteria the species or habitat is proposed (as interpreted from the guideline 1 in the Bern Convention's Recommendation 56 (1997), and also indicated in subparagraphs of Article 1 g of the Habitats Directive)

☐ *Endangered*, except those species whose natural range is marginal in that territory and which are not endangered or vulnerable in the Western Palaearctic Region

☒ *Vulnerable*, i.e. believed likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating

☐ *Rare*, with small populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable but at risk. The species is located within restricted geographical areas or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range

☐ *Endemic* and requiring attention by reason or the specific nature of its habitat or the potential impact of its exploitation on its habitat or the potential impact of its conservation status

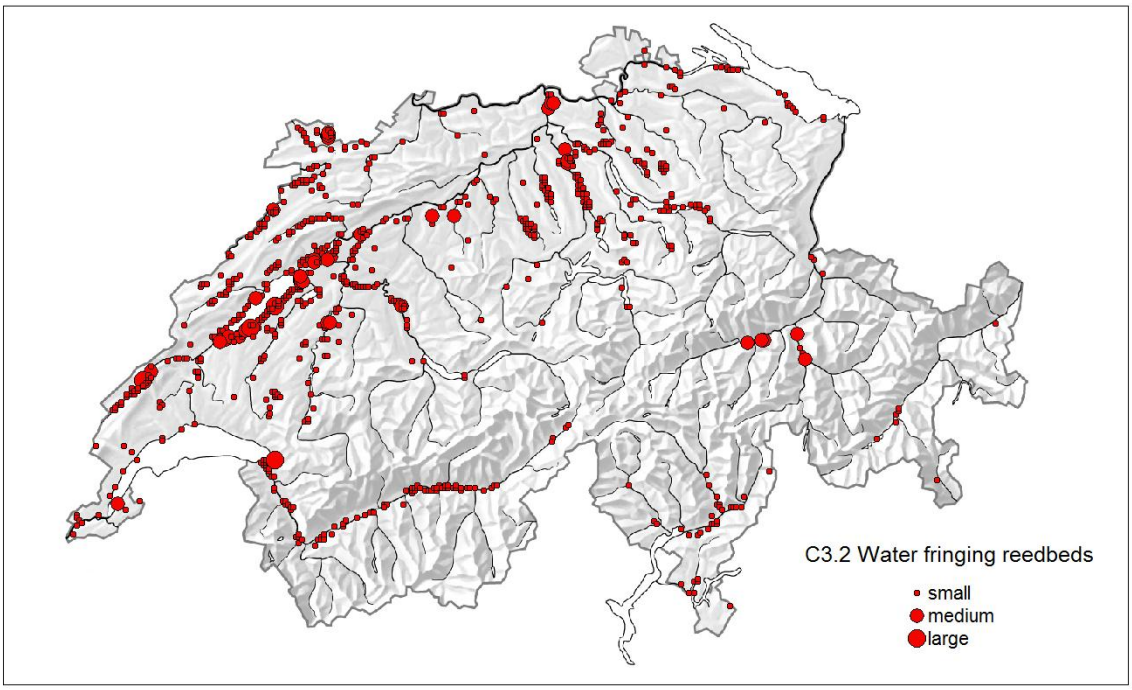
Remarks:
as described in Recommendation 56 (1997) account will be taken of the category of threat, the vulnerability of the species to changes in its habitat, its particular link with a threatened habitat, the trends and variations in population level and its vulnerability to a possible non sustainable use. Account will be taken of whether the species is declining in the central area of its distribution, or it is only threatened in the border of its range.

For species only: ecological role (as described in Recommendation 56 (1997): account will be taken of the ecological role of the species, such as their position or role in the food chain (i.e. raptors, insectivorous species such as bats), their structural role in ecosystems (i.e. corals, heathlands) or the fact that endangered species or endangered ecosystems may be highly dependent on them (i.e. marine phanerogams like Posidonia oceanica) or risk to become threatened by their exploitation (like the mollusc Lithophaga lithophaga).

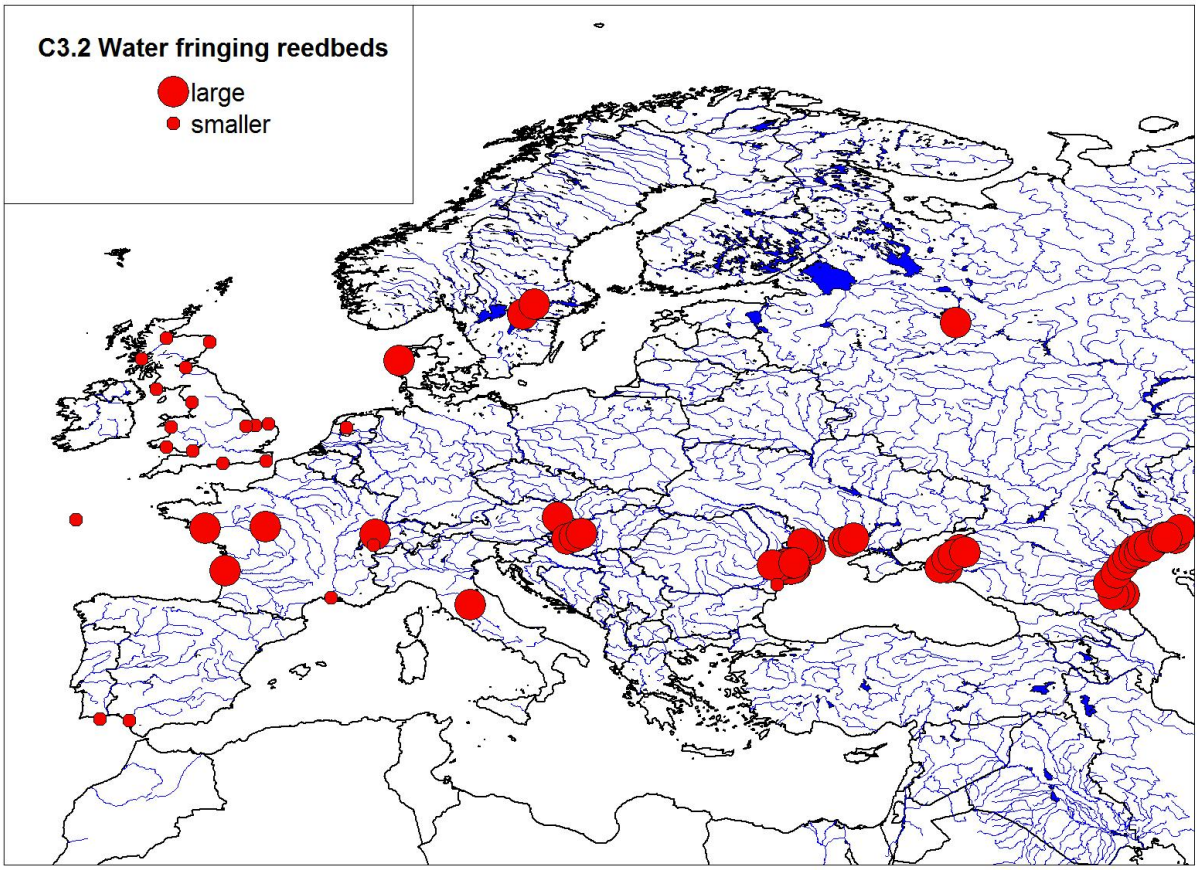
Geographical distribution

In addition, include maps with the distribution of the species or habitat (GIS format preferred), with reference to scale and projection.

- in the country: Projection: Swiss national system; scale: 1:250 000



- in the Pan-European region: projection: WGS84 ; scale 1:10 000 000



- in other parts of the world: indications of presence of the habitat in North America (Long Island NY, etc.) and in Asia (Tajikistan, Pakistan, etc.). No map available.

Further comments concerning the geographical distribution :(e.g. known subtypes, regional varieties, loci typici)

This habit corresponds to the phytosociological alliances of Phragmition, Phalaridion and Oenanthion aquaticae.

Halophilic variants on the coastline. The exact phytosociological status of the forms found in Asia and North America have yet to be specified

Estimated population size and trends (guideline 1 from Rec. 56 (1997):
(Indicate the situation in the country(ies) and, as far as possible, European wide and world wide) (according to EEA guidelines for indicating population data)

Estimated size in Switzerland: 15 km^2

Estimated size in Europe: approximately 10 000 km^2 (Poulin 2013)

Reasons for decline or threats: Habitat sensitive to the eutrophisation of water, the artificialisation of banks, the regulation of lake level and navigation-related mechanical disturbances. In Switzerland, historical data suggests that more than 80% of lake reedbeds have disappeared since 1750. The decline over the last 50 years has been estimated at more than 30% (Bergamini 2013). However, over the last ten or so the situation has become more stabilised.

Conservation status: (within country, region, pan-European level, etc …)

Switzerland: EN (endangered) according to the red list of threatened habitats in Switzerland, in application of the IUCN criteria (Keith & al. 2013). Dominant criterion: A3 (decrease since 1750). This habitat has been included in Annex 1 to the Federal Ordinance on the Protection of Nature (biotype types deserving protection)

Europe: VU. Determining criteria: A12, A3, D1 (Poulin 2013)

Important references / literature / publications:
(especially those relevant for the taxonomy, conservation status and geographical distribution)

Bergamini A. (2013) Marais. In : Delarze R., Bergamini A., Eggenberg S., Guntern J., Hofer G., Sager L., Steiger P., Stucki P. 2013: Liste des habitats prioritaires au niveau national et Liste rouge des habitats de Suisse. Rapport expertise sur mandat de l'Office fédéral de l'environnement (OFEV), Berne: 101 p. plus annexes (p. 102–340).

Delarze R. & Gonseth Y. (2008) Guide des milieux naturels de Suisse. 2e éd. Rossolis. Bussigny. 424 p.

Grechushkina, N.A., A.N. Sorokin and V.B. Golub. (2011). The plant communities with domination of Phragmites australis and Bolboschoenus glaucus in the territory of Russian coast of the Azov Sea. Nauchnyje Soobschchestva, 20(2): 105-115

Keith DA, Rodriguez JP, Rodriguez-Clark KM, Nicholson E, Aapala K, et al. (2013) Scientific Foundations for an IUCN Red List of Ecosystems. PLoS ONE 8(5): e62111. doi: 10.1371 / journal. pone.0062111

Koch, W. (1926). Die Vegetationseinheiten der Linthebene unter Berücksichtigung der Verhältnisse in der Nordostschweiz. – Jahrb. St. Gallischen Naturwiss. Ges. 61(1925): 1–144.

Lang, G. (1990). Die Vegetation des westlichen Bodenseegebietes. – Pflanzensoziologie 17: 1–451.

Poulin B. 2013) European reedbeds. In: Scientific Foundations for an IUCN Red List of Ecosystems. Supplementary material. PlosOne 8(5):66-74.

Wendelberger, G. (1959). Die Vegetation des Neusiedlersee-Gebietes. – Sitzungsberichte. Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Mathemathisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Klasse. Abteilung I, Biologische Wissenschaften und Erdwissenschaften 168: 305–314.

Further remarks: (any additional important information not given above, relevant for evaluating the proposal)

This is a habitat at the interface between the land and water, fulfilling essential functions in the regulation of biogeochemcial cycles and the life cycle of many aquatic and amphibious organisms: reproduction of fish and batrachians, nesting areas for water birds (great crested grebe, etc.).

Species in Appendix II to the Bern Convention closely linked to this habitat: little bittern (Ixobrychus minutus), great bittern (Botaurus stellaris), purple heron (Ardea purpurea), bearded reedling (Panurus biarmicus).

Picture of species or habitat:

Lac de Bret VD. *Photo R.Delarze*

Les Grangettes VD *Photo R. Delarze*

Contact Person(s) for additional questions concerning this species or habitat:
(if multi-country proposal, please add relevant persons for each country)

Name: Pearson Sarah ……..
Institution: Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)……
Postal Address: 3003 Bern……...

Country: Switzerland…….. Phone No: …….
Fax No: …… E-mail: ……..

If not identical with Contact Person, author of this data form:

Name: Delarze Raymond

Institution: BEB sa Bureau d'études biologiques

Postal Address: 6, Chemin des Artisans. CH-1860 Aigle

Country: Switzerland
Phone No: 0041 24 4669150
Fax No: 0041 24 4670075

E-mail: delarze.raymond@bluewin.ch

DATE: 30.06.2014 .....

Proposed by: Switzerland..... (Countries)

Information Form for species or habitats to be included in:

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or

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Species proposal

Latin Name (incl. Author + Year):…….
Latin Synonyms: .....
Source of the scientific name: .....

Vernacular name:
English Name: .....
French Name: .....
other: (specify language):.....

Systematics:
Phylum: .....
Class: .....
Order: .....
Family: .....

Habitat proposal

EUNIS Habitat code: **G1.4**.....

Habitat title: Alnus swamp woods

Habitat Definition: (only if a new subdivision in the EUNIS classification is suggested)
…….

Proposal for amending Res. 6 or Res. 4: additional information needed						
Name of Biogeographical Region(s) in which the species or habitat occurs (please mark with "x")						
☒ **Alpine**	☐	**Anatolian**	☐	**Artic**	☒	**Atlantic**
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Marine region: (if a marine region map is adopted by the SC):						
Is the Species or Habitat present in EUR 27: ☒ Yes ☐ No						

Other International Conventions, Instruments and Agreements:
(Please mark with "x" if mentioned)

Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention):
Annex I ☐
Annex II ☐

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES):
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Other: (Barcelona Convention, IUCN red data books, etc ……)

Short Description / Distinguishing Characteristics

European Interest
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☒ *Rare*, with small populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable but at risk. The species is located within restricted geographical areas or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range

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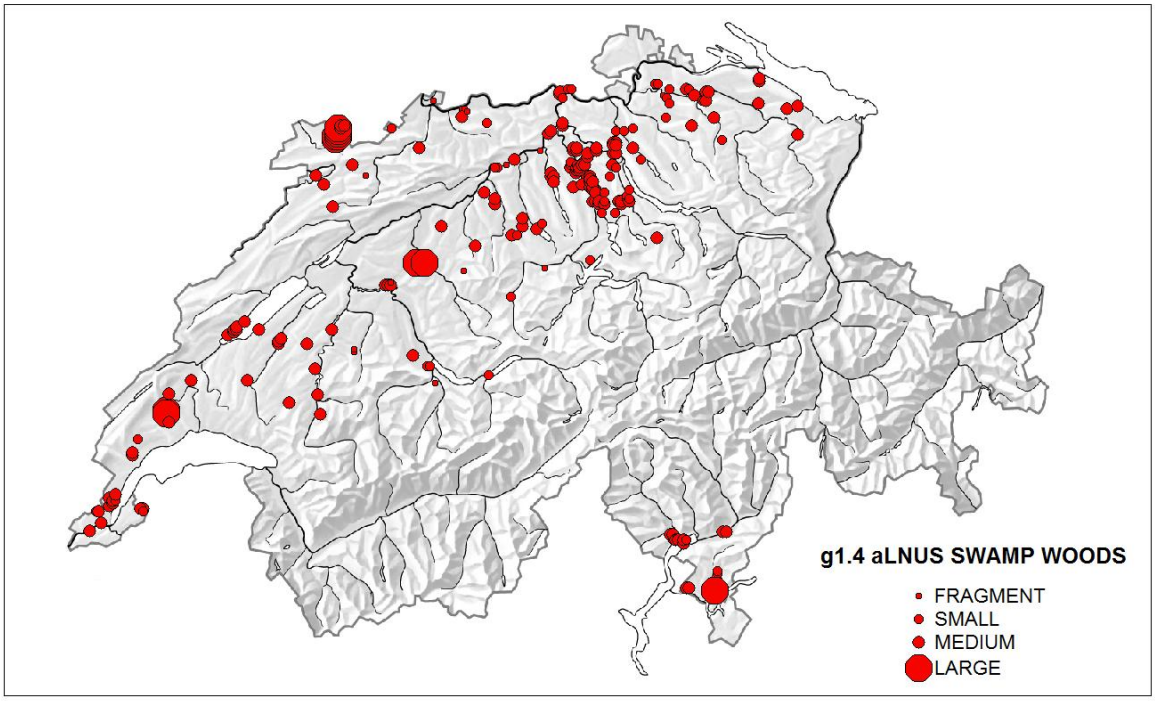
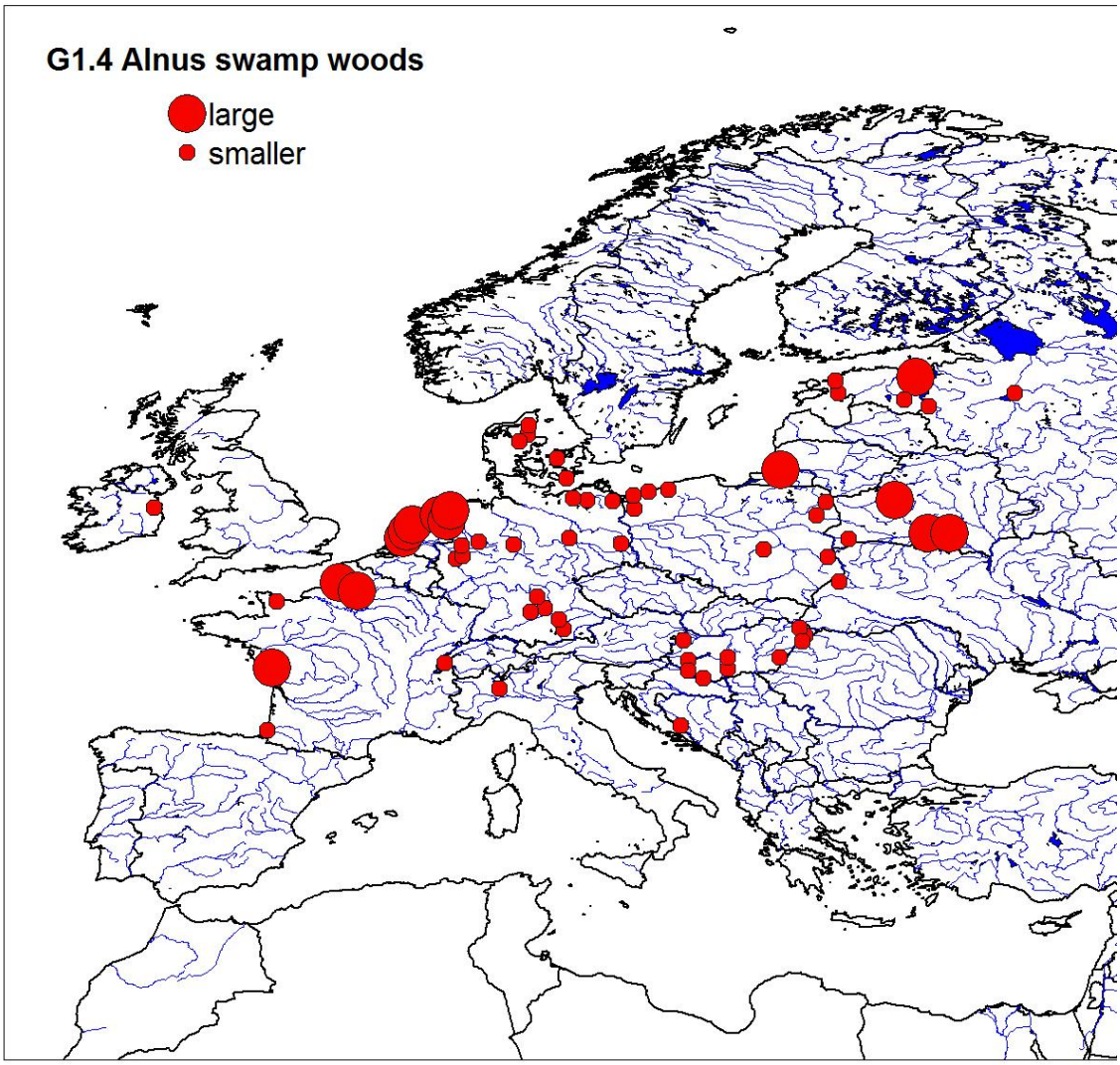
Geographical distribution

In addition, include maps with the distribution of the species or habitat (GIS format preferred), with reference to scale and projection.

- in the country: Projection: National co-ordinate system; scale: 1:2 500 000



- in the Pan-European region: projection WGS84; scale: 1:25 000 000



- in other parts of the world: **found only in Europe**

Further comments concerning the geographical distribution :(e.g. known subtypes, regional varieties, loci typici)

This habitat covers large stretches in northern Europe where it is not under threat. However, it is reduced to small isolated areas in central parts of Europe and has practically disappeared in southern Europe.

Estimated population size and trends (guideline 1 from Rec. 56 (1997):
(Indicate the situation in the country(ies) and, as far as possible, European wide and world wide)
(according to EEA guidelines for indicating population data)

Switzerland: 3 km^2, or 0.07% of the national territory

Europe: 33 000 km^2 (according to the Map of natural vegetation of Europe, Bundesamt für Naturschutz. http://www.floraweb.de/vegetation/dnld_eurovegmap.html).

Reasons for decline or threats:

Associated with particular edaphological and hydrographic conditions (forest flood basins), this habitat is sensitive to drainage, filling and inappropriate forest interventions. Because of the very small area it covers nationally and the small size of the sites concerned, it is particularly vulnerable to any disturbances.

Conservation status: (within country, region, pan-European level, etc …)

In Switzerland, the habitat is endangered (EN) and appears on the national red list of threatened habitats (Steiger 2013: IUCN criteria: A1, A3. B4). It is also included in Annex 1 of the Federal Ordinance on the Protection of Nature (biotype types deserving protection)

In Europe, the habitat as a whole is near threatened (NT), at least in half of the southern area that it covers, in which there are numerous associations with a small distribution range (see for example Bailly 2012) which probably have a higher threat status.

Important references / literature / publications:
(especially those relevant for the taxonomy, conservation status and geographical distribution)

Bailly G. (2012) Contribution à l'étude des aulnaies marécageuses comtoises. Nouv. Arch. Flore jurass. Et du nord-est de la france. 10: 57-102.

Delarze R. & Gonseth Y. (2008) Guide des milieux naturels de Suisse. 2e éd. Rossolis. Bussigny. 424 p.

Klika, J. (1939/1940). Die Pflanzengesellschaften des Alnion-Verbandes. – Preslia 18/19: 97–112, 19.

Solińska-Górnicka, B. (1987). Alder (Alnus glutinosa) carr in Poland. – Tuexenia 7: 329–346.

Steiger P. (2010) Wälder der Schweiz. Von Lindengrün zu Lärchengold. Vielfalt der Waldbilder und Waldgesellschaften in der Schweiz. Ott Verlag, Thun, 464 p.

Steiger P. (2013) Forêts. In : Delarze R., Bergamini A., Eggenberg S., Guntern J., Hofer G., Sager L., Steiger P., Stucki P. 2013: Liste des habitats prioritaires au niveau national et Liste rouge des habitats de Suisse. Rapport expertise sur mandat de l'Office fédéral de l'environnement (OFEV), Berne: 101 p. plus annexes (p. 102–340).

Stortelder, A. H. F.; Hommel, P. W. F. M. & Schaminée, J. H. J. (1999a).Alnetea glutinosae. – In: Stortelder, A. H. F.; Schaminée, J. H. J. & Hommel, P. W. F. M. : De vegetatie van Nederland. Deel 5. Plantengemeenschappen van ruigten, struwelen en bossen. – Uppsala (Opulus Press) p. 189–210.

Further remarks: (any additional important information not given above, relevant for evaluating the proposal)

This habitat corresponds to the phytosociological habitat of Alnion glutinosae.

It is home to various outstanding plants whose habitat deserves to be preserved: Carex elongata, Calla palustris, Osmunda regalis, Dryopteris cristata, Thelypteris palustris, Hottonia palustris, Iris pseudacorus, Ophioglossum vulgatum.

It is the main reproduction biotope for two species of batrachians included on Appendix II of the Bern Convention: Triturus cristatus and Rana dalmatina.

Picture of species or habitat:

Bois de Chênes VD *Photo R.Delarze*

Contact Person(s) for additional questions concerning this species or habitat:
(if multi-country proposal, please add relevant persons for each country)

Name: Pearson Sarah ……..
Institution: Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)……
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Country: Suisse
Phone No: 0041 24 4669150
Fax No: 0041 24 4670075

E-mail: delarze.raymond@bluewin.ch

DATE: 30.06.2014 .....

Proposed by: Switzerland..... (Countries)

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or

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Species proposal

Latin Name (incl. Author + Year):…….
Latin Synonyms: .....
Source of the scientific name: .....

Vernacular name:
English Name: .....
French Name: .....
other: (specify language):.....

Systematics:
Phylum: .....
Class: .....
Order: .....
Family: .....

Habitat proposal

EUNIS Habitat code: G3.43.....

Habitat title: Inner-Alpine Ononis Steppe Forests

Habitat Definition: (only if a new subdivision in the EUNIS classification is suggested)
…….

Proposal for amending Res. 6 or Res. 4: additional information needed						
Name of Biogeographical Region(s) in which the species or habitat occurs (please mark with "x")						
☒ **Alpine**	☐	**Anatolian**	☐	**Artic**	☐	**Atlantic**
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Other: (Barcelona Convention, IUCN red data books, etc ……)

Short Description / Distinguishing Characteristics

European Interest
Please mark with "X" for which of the following criteria the species or habitat is proposed (as interpreted from the guideline 1 in the Bern Convention's Recommendation 56 (1997), and also indicated in subparagraphs of Article 1 g of the Habitats Directive)

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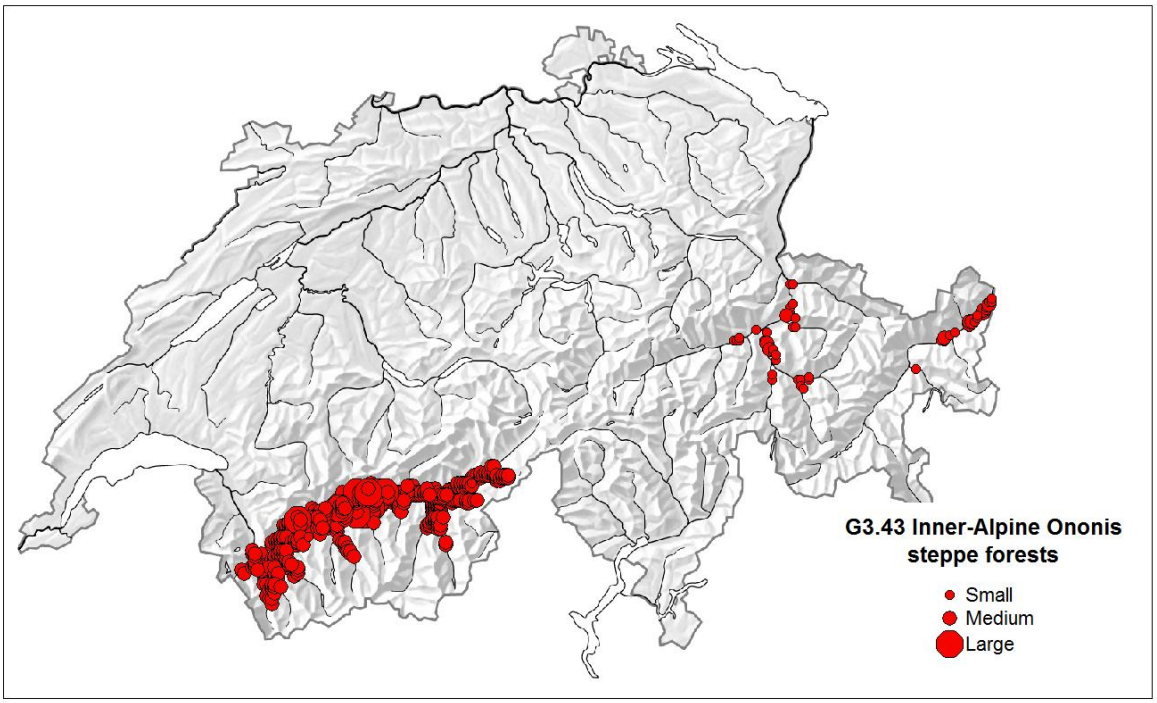
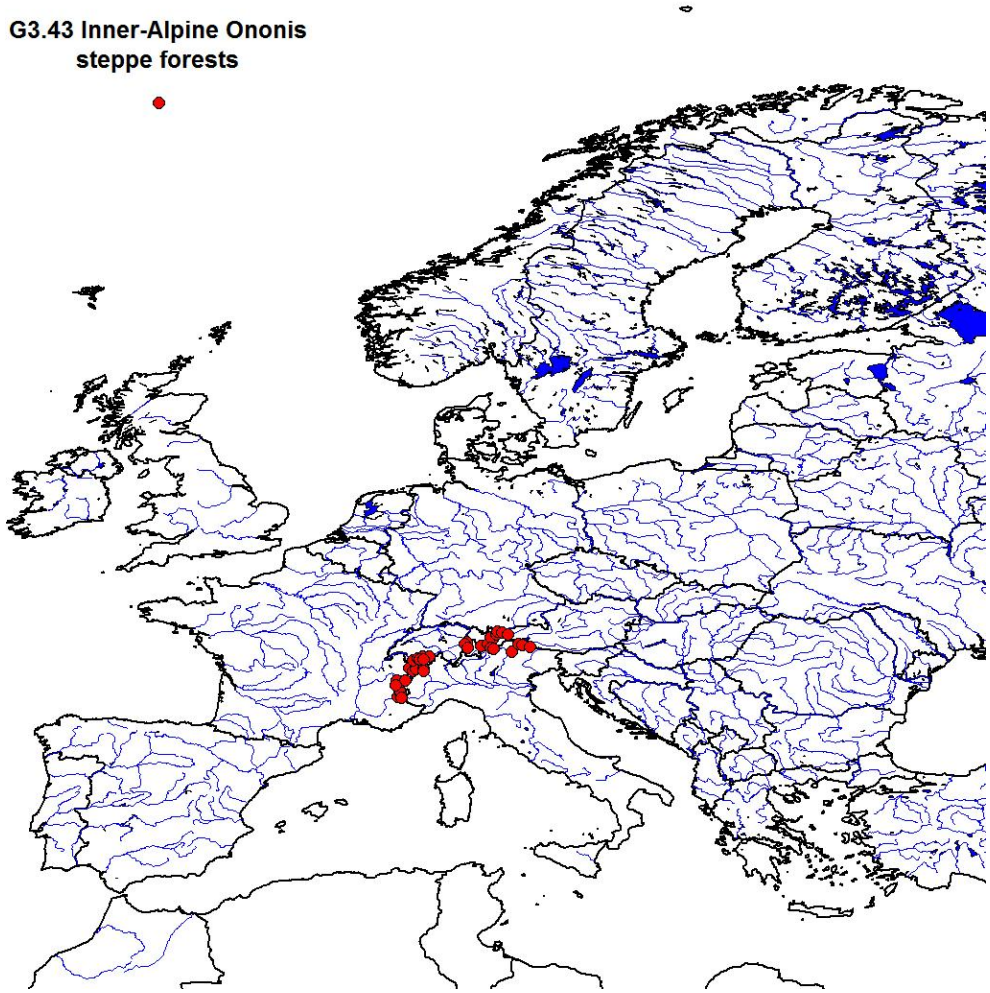
Geographical distribution

In addition, include maps with the distribution of the species or habitat (GIS format preferred), with reference to scale and projection.

- in the country: Projection: National co-ordinate system; scale: 1:2 500 000



- in the Pan-European region: projection WGS84 ; scale: 1:25 000 000



- in other parts of the world: **found only in the Alpine region**

Further comments concerning the geographical distribution :(e.g. known subtypes, regional varieties, loci typici)

Relict vegetation community resulting from post-glacial colonisation, isolated in small colonies scattered in the intra-Alpine valleys subject to a continental climate. It bears witness to the history of European vegetation, home to many very localised species (plants, insects).

Estimated population size and trends (guideline 1 from Rec. 56 (1997):
(Indicate the situation in the country(ies) and, as far as possible, European wide and world wide)
(according to EEA guidelines for indicating population data)

In Switzerland: 87 km^2 (Steiger 2013)

In Europe: general area of approximately 2400 km^2 (according to the Map of natural vegetation of Europe, Bundesamt für Naturschutz. http://www.floraweb.de/vegetation/dnld_eurovegmap.html) but the effective area is undoubtedly smaller, less than 500 km^2.

Reasons for decline or threats: A type of habitat which is very exposed to the effects of global warming. Decline observed in Valais over the last twenty years, characterised by the gradual replacement of Scots pines by oaks and increased frequency of forest fires. It is a fragmented habitat

with low regeneration capacity. There are several associations, some of which cover only a few km^2 in total.

Conservation status: (within country, region, pan-European level, etc …)

In Switzerland, the habitat as a whole may be classified as near threatened (NT). Certain associations with a small distribution range (Odontito-Pinetum, Carici-Pinetum engadinensis) are endangered (EN) according to the national red list (Steiger 2013), drawn up in line with the IUCN criteria (Keith & al. 2013).

In Europe, the habitat as a whole is probably not threatened, but certain very localised associations are possibly so (DD). Large areas have been replaced by plantation of Pinus nigra, particularly in Italy.

Important references / literature / publications:
(especially those relevant for the taxonomy, conservation status and geographical distribution)

Bartoli, C. (1966). Étude écologique sur les associations végétales forestières de la Haute-Maurienne. – Annales des sciences forestières 23(3): 432–751.

Braun-Blanquet, J. (1961). Die inneralpine Trockenvegetation von der Provence bis zur Steiermark. – Stuttgart (G. Fischer) 273 Stuttgart

Braun-Blanquet, J.; Pallmann, H. & Bach, R. (1954). Pflanzensoziologische und bodenkundliche Untersuchungen im Schweizerischen Nationalpark und seinen Nachbargebieten. II. Vegetation und Böden der Wald- und Zwergstrauchgesellschaften (Vaccinio-Piceetalia). – Ergebn. Wiss. Untersuch. Schweiz. Nationalpark 4: 1–200.

Braun-Blanquet, J. & Richard, F. (1949). Groupements végétaux et sols du bassin de Sierre. – Bull. Murith. Soc. Valais. Sci. Nat. 64: 106–134.

Delarze R. & Gonseth Y. (2008) Guide des milieux naturels de Suisse. 2e éd. Rossolis. Bussigny. 424 p.

Hölzel, N. (1996a). Schneeheide-Kiefernwälder in den mittleren Nördlichen Kalkalpen. – Laufener Forschungsberichte 3: 192

Hölzel, N. (1996b). Erico-Pinetea (H6), Alpisch-Dinarische Karbonat-Kiefernwälder [= Synopsis der Pflanzengesellschaften Deutschlands 1]. – Göttingen (Floristisch-soziologische Arbeitsgemein-schaft und Reinhold-Tüxen-Gesellschaft) 49 S.

Keith DA, Rodriguez JP, Rodriguez-Clark KM, Nicholson E, Aapala K, et al. (2013) Scientific Foundations for an IUCN Red List of Ecosystems. PLoS ONE 8(5): e62111. doi: 10.1371 / journal. pone.0062111

Plumettaz Clot, A.-C. (1988). Phyto-écologie des pinèdes valaisannes et contribution le taxonomie du genre Pinus. – Lausanne (Thèse, Lausanne) 369 p.

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Steiger P. (2013) Forêts. In : Delarze R., Bergamini A., Eggenberg S., Guntern J., Hofer G., Sager L., Steiger P., Stucki P. 2013: Liste des habitats prioritaires au niveau national et Liste rouge des habitats

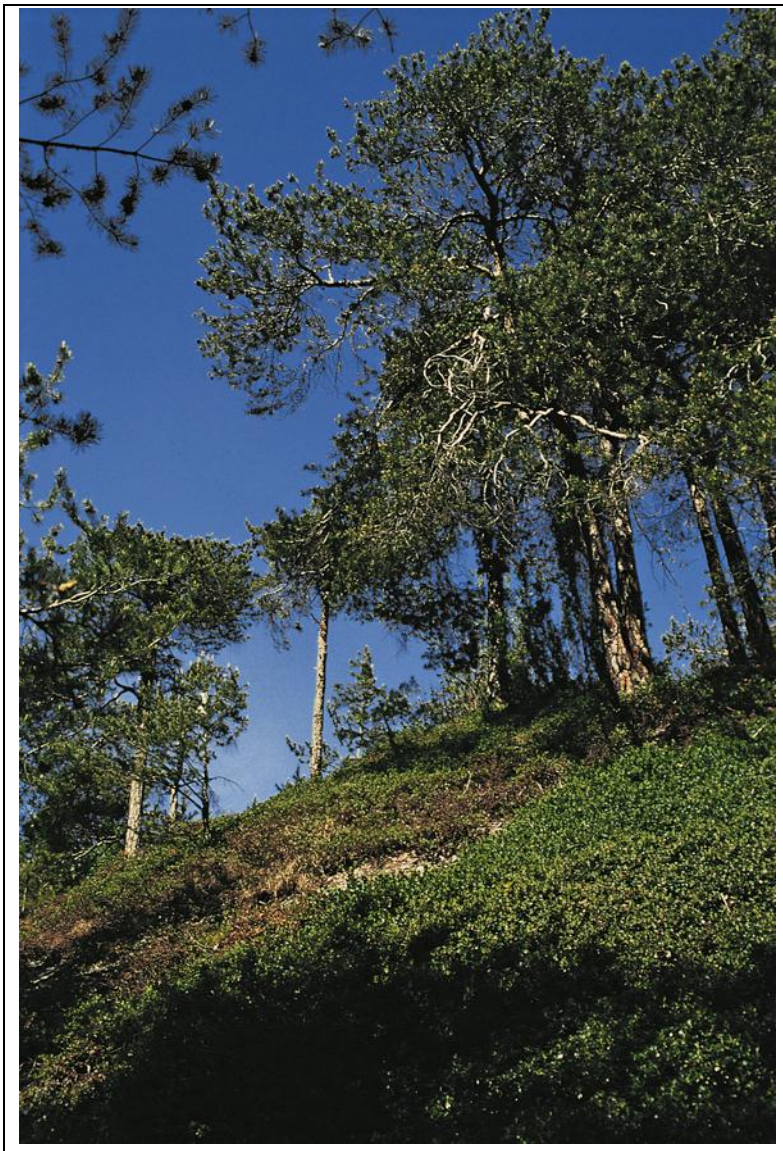
de Suisse. Rapport expertise sur mandat de l'Office fédéral de l'environnement (OFEV), Berne: 101 p. plus annexes (p. 102–340).

Wagner, H. (1979). Das Virgental/Osttirol, eine bisher zu wenig beachtete inneralpine Trockeninsel. – Phytocoenologia 6: 303–316.

Further remarks: (any additional important information not given above, relevant for evaluating the proposal)

Numerous relict species of high heritage value are to be found in this habitat: Astragalus exscapus, Astragalus alopecurus, Odontites viscosa, Astragalus vesicarius subsp. pastellianus, Ononis rotundifolia, Oxytropis halleri subsp. velutina, Juniperus thurifera.

Picture of species or habitat:



Bois de Finges *VS Photo R. Delarze*

Contact Person(s) for additional questions concerning this species or habitat:
(if multi-country proposal, please add relevant persons for each country)

Name: Pearson Sarah ……..
Institution: Federal Office for the Environement (FOEN)……
Postal Address: 3003 Bern……...

Country: Switzerland…….. Phone No: …….
Fax No: …… E-mail: ……..

If not identical with Contact Person, author of this data form:

Name: Delarze Raymond

Institution: BEB sa Bureau d'études biologiques

Postal Address: 6, Chemin des Artisans. CH-1860 Aigle

Country: Switzerland
Phone No: 0041 24 4669150
Fax No: 0041 24 4670075

E-mail: delarze.raymond@bluewin.ch

DATE: 30.06.2014 .....

Proposed by: Switzerland..... (Countries)

Information Form for species or habitats to be included in:

☐ **Appendix I:** Strictly protected flora species

☐ **Appendix II:** Strictly protected fauna species

☐ **Appendix III:** Protected fauna species

and

☐ **Resolution (1998) 6:** Species requiring specific habitat conservation measures

or

☒ **Resolution (1996) 4:** Endangered natural habitats requiring conservation measures

Species proposal

Latin Name (incl. Author + Year):…….
Latin Synonyms: .....
Source of the scientific name: .....

Vernacular name:
English Name: .....
French Name: .....
other: (specify language):.....

Systematics:
Phylum: .....
Class: .....
Order: .....
Family: .....

Habitat proposal

EUNIS Habitat code: **G3.44**.....

Habitat title: Alpine Spring heath Pinus sylvestris forests

Habitat Definition: (only if a new subdivision in the EUNIS classification is suggested)
…….

Proposal for amending Res. 6 or Res. 4: additional information needed						
Name of Biogeographical Region(s) in which the species or habitat occurs (please mark with "x")						
☒ **Alpine**	☐	**Anatolian**	☐	**Artic**	☐	**Atlantic**
☐ **Black Sea**	☐	**Boreal**	☒	**Continental**	☐	**Macaronesia**
☐ **Mediterranean**	☐	**Pannonic**	☐	**Steppic**		
Marine region: (if a marine region map is adopted by the SC):						
Is the Species or Habitat present in EUR 27: ☒ Yes ☐ No						

Other International Conventions, Instruments and Agreements:
(Please mark with "x" if mentioned)

Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention):
Annex I ☐
Annex II ☐

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES):
Annex 1 ☐
Annex 2 ☐

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR)
Ref. 2008-6 part 1 ☐
Ref. 2008-6 part 2 ☐

Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
Annex I ☐
Annex II ☐
Annex IV ☐
Annex V ☐

Directive 2009/147/EC (79/409/EEC amended) on the conservation of wild birds
Annex I ☐
Annex II ☐
Annex III ☐

Other: (Barcelona Convention, IUCN red data books, etc ……)

Short Description / Distinguishing Characteristics

European Interest
Please mark with "X" for which of the following criteria the species or habitat is proposed (as interpreted from the guideline 1 in the Bern Convention's Recommendation 56 (1997), and also indicated in subparagraphs of Article 1 g of the Habitats Directive)

☐ *Endangered*, except those species whose natural range is marginal in that territory and which are not endangered or vulnerable in the Western Palaearctic Region

☐ *Vulnerable*, i.e. believed likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating

☒ *Rare*, with small populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable but at risk. The species is located within restricted geographical areas or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range

☐ *Endemic* and requiring attention by reason or the specific nature of its habitat or the potential impact of its exploitation on its habitat or the potential impact of its conservation status

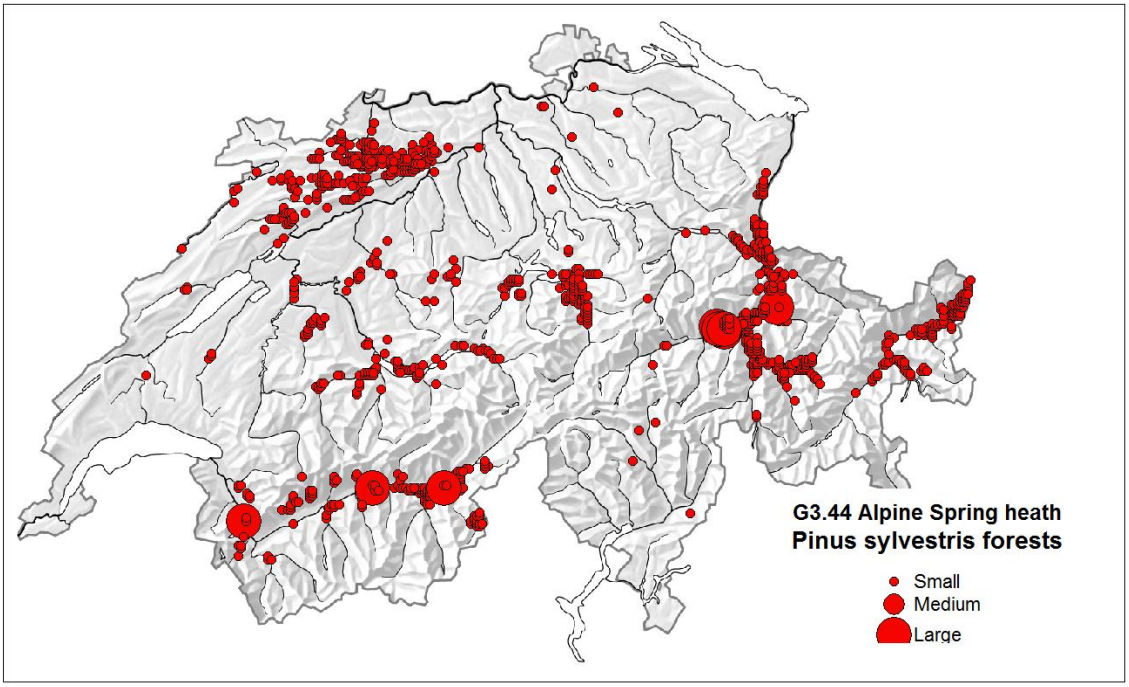
Remarks:
as described in Recommendation 56 (1997) account will be taken of the category of threat, the vulnerability of the species to changes in its habitat, its particular link with a threatened habitat, the trends and variations in population level and its vulnerability to a possible non sustainable use. Account will be taken of whether the species is declining in the central area of its distribution, or it is only threatened in the border of its range.

For species only: ecological role (as described in Recommendation 56 (1997): account will be taken of the ecological role of the species, such as their position or role in the food chain (i.e. raptors, insectivorous species such as bats), their structural role in ecosystems (i.e. corals, heathlands) or the fact that endangered species or endangered ecosystems may be highly dependent on them (i.e. marine phanerogams like Posidonia oceanica) or risk to become threatened by their exploitation (like the mollusc Lithophaga lithophaga).

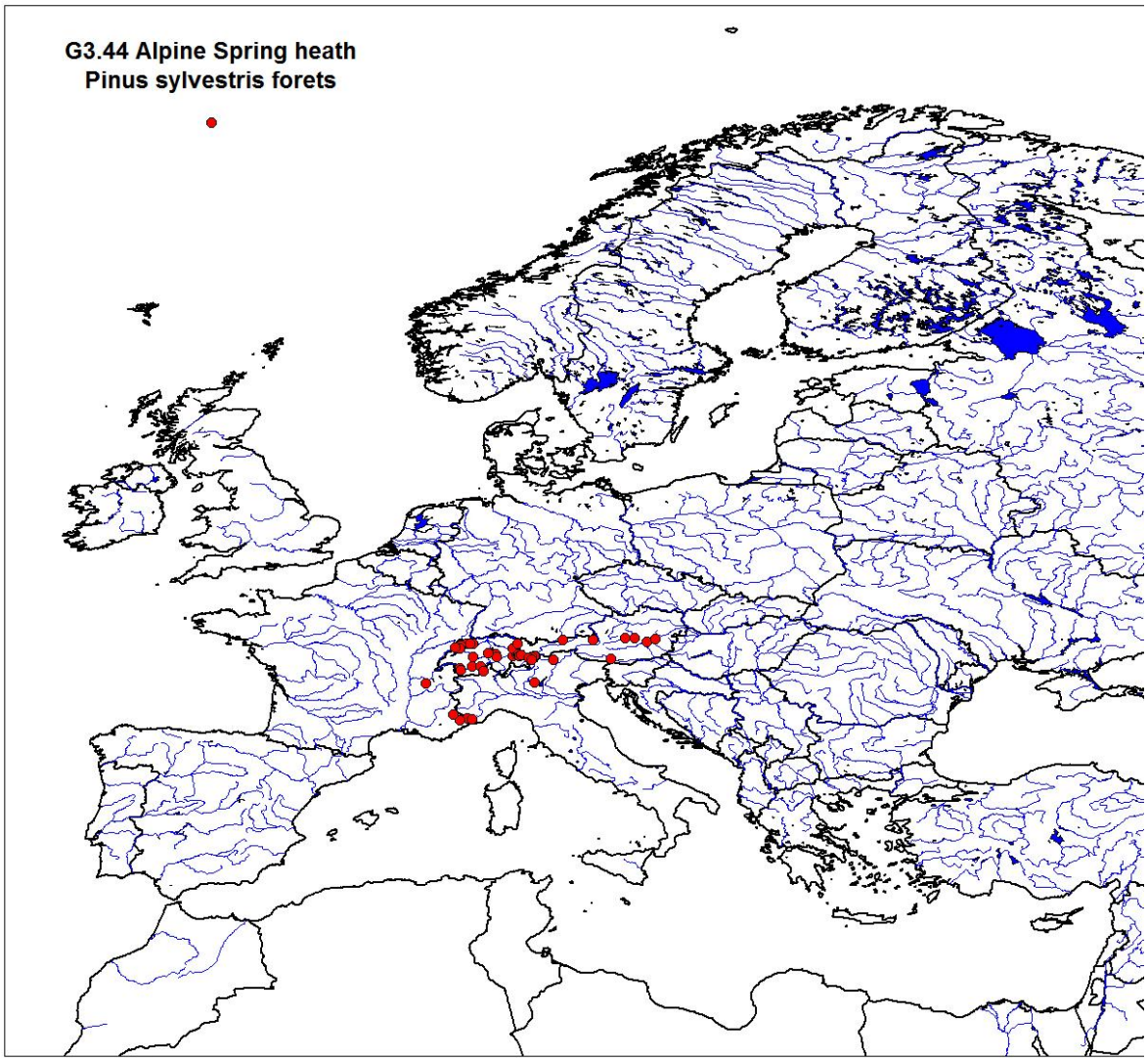
Geographical distribution

In addition, include maps with the distribution of the species or habitat (GIS format preferred), with reference to scale and projection.

- in the country: Projection: National co-ordinate system; scale: 1:2 500 000



- in the Pan-European region: projection WGS84 ; scale: 1:25 000 000



- in other parts of the world: **found only in Europe**

Further comments concerning the geographical distribution :(e.g. known subtypes, regional varieties, loci typici)

Apart from the relatively widespread Erico-pinetum association, the habit comprises numerous specialised vegetation associations with a small distribution range. Examples in Switzerland include Cephalanthero-Pinetum, Cirsio tuberosi-Pinetum, Cytiso-Pinetum, Coronillo-Pinetum and Pyrolo-Pinetum. The effective surface area covered by these associations varies between 1 and 6 km^2

Estimated population size and trends (guideline 1 from Rec. 56 (1997):
(Indicate the situation in the country(ies) and, as far as possible, European wide and world wide)
(according to EEA guidelines for indicating population data)

Switzerland: 70 km^2 (Steiger 2013)

Europe: 570 km^2 (general area according to the Map of natural vegetation of Europe, Bundesamt für Naturschutz. http://www.floraweb.de/vegetation/dnld_eurovegmap.html), effective surface area estimated at 380 km^2 (Steiger 2013)

Reasons for decline or threats:

An environment exposed to the effects of global warning and sensitive to air pollution. Most associations have a small distribution range and are to be found in small scattered surface areas covering in total less than 10 km^2. Because of this, they are very vulnerable.

Conservation status: (within country, region, pan-European level, etc …)

Switzerland: of the 9 vegetation associations listed in Switzerland, only Erico-Pinetum is not threatened (LC). The other associations are endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CR), according to the red list of Swiss habitats, drawn up in line with the IUCN criteria (Keith & al. 2013)

Important references / literature / publications:
(especially those relevant for the taxonomy, conservation status and geographical distribution)

Delarze R. & Gonseth Y. (2008) Guide des milieux naturels de Suisse. 2^e éd. Rossolis. Bussigny. 424 p.

Ellenberg, H. & Klötzli, F. (1972**)**. Waldgesellschaften und Waldstandorte der Schweiz. – Schweiz. Anst. Forstl. Versuchswesen Mitt. 48(4): 589–930.

Hölzel, N. (1996a)**.** Schneeheide-Kiefernwälder in den mittleren Nördlichen Kalkalpen. – Laufener Forschungsberichte 3: 192

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Further remarks: (any additional important information not given above, relevant for evaluating the proposal)

This habitat corresponds to the Erico-pinetum sylvestris phytosociological alliance, to which may be attached the peri-Alpine associations of Molinio-Pinetum and Cytiso-Pinetum. It has immature soil typical of the landscape of the Alps and the Jura (alluvial fans, unstable marl slopes, gypsum, moraine, etc.), and generally covers only small areas.

These woodlands constitute skylights in the forest fabric, where various uncommon heliophilous plants find refuge (orchids, post-glacial relicts). Despite its small surface area, this habitat is one of outstanding diversity, with no fewer than nine distinct vegetation associations in Switzerland.

Picture of species or habitat:

Contact Person(s) for additional questions concerning this species or habitat:
(if multi-country proposal, please add relevant persons for each country)

Name: Pearson Sarah ……..
Institution: Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)……
Postal Address: 3003 Bern……...

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Fax No: …… E-mail: ……..

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Name: Delarze Raymond

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Country: Switzerland
Phone No: 0041 24 4669150
Fax No: 0041 24 4670075

E-mail: delarze.raymond@bluewin.ch