

Status of UK BAP Priority Habitats

Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) have been prepared for habitats considered threatened within the UK. They include 39 ‘priority’ habitats occurring in Scotland. The habitats are ecologically diverse and are likely to be sensitive to change in the ecosystems and natural processes on which they depend. They therefore provide indicators of change in terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. Trends across the suite of BAP priority habitats, as reported here, indicate progress towards halting biodiversity loss.



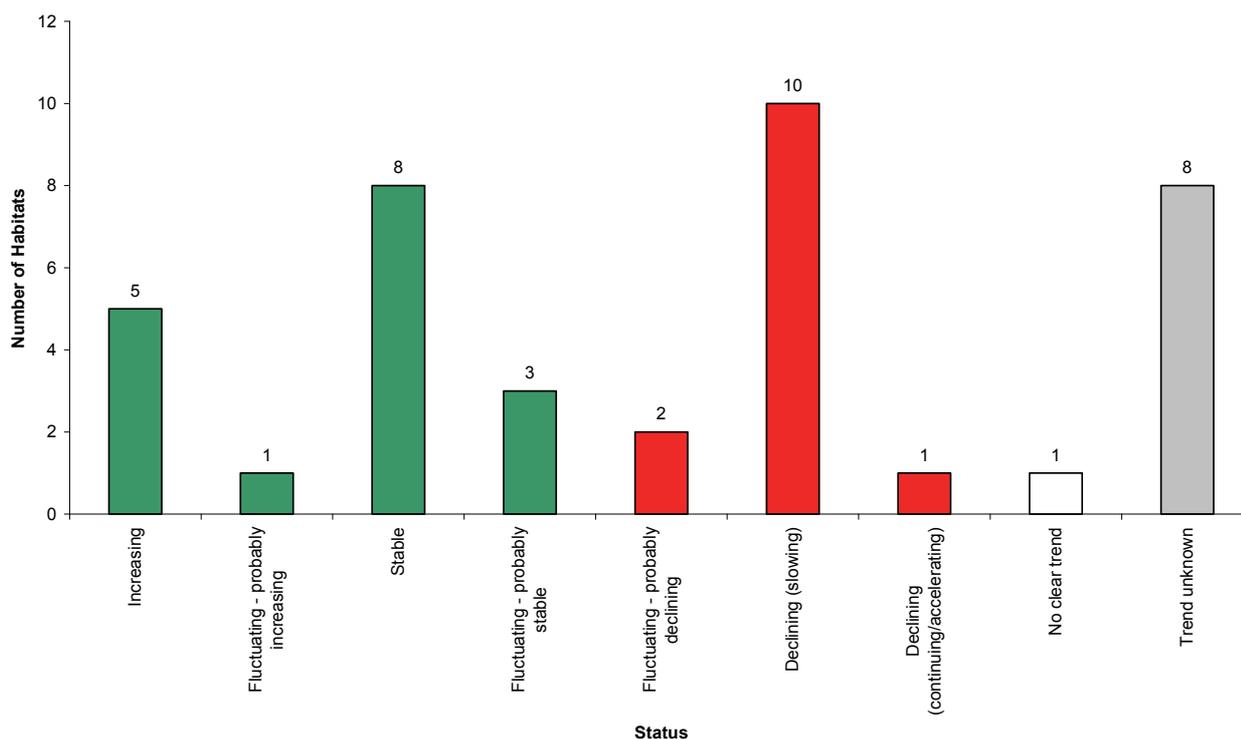
Serpula vermicularis, a reef forming tube worm, © SNH Images

Evidence

Habitat trends are assessed by [Lead Partners](#), based on their specialist expertise and best data available. Since 2005, the data from the web-based [Biodiversity Action Reporting System \(BARS\)](#) has been used for the planning, monitoring and reporting requirements of national and local BAPs.

Scottish trend for BAP Habitats

The status of 39 BAP habitats occurring in Scotland in the 2008 assessment



Assessment

Of the 39 BAP habitats in Scotland:

- 6 (15%) were increasing;
- 11 (28%) were stable;
- 13 (33%) were declining;
- For the remainder, the trend was unclear for 1 (3%) or unknown for 8 (20%).

TREND	No trend available
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DATA CONFIDENCE	Good/ satisfactory
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Commentary

The results reported are the latest trend assessment of the habitats determined by the [Lead Partners](#).

The 39 BAP habitats are the focus of concerted conservation action through [Habitat Action Plans](#) and [Local Biodiversity Action Plans](#).

Habitats that increased include [Native pine woodlands](#), which have been increasing since 1999. The native pinewoods are relict indigenous forests dominated by self-sown Scots pine which occur throughout the central and north-eastern Grampians and in the northern and western Highlands of Scotland.

Habitats that were considered stable in 2008 include [lowland heathland](#), which is characterised by the presence of plants such as heather, dwarf gorses, and cross-leaved heath and is generally found below 300 metres in altitude.

Rates of decline were slowing among a number of habitats including [upland calcareous grassland](#), [upland heath](#) and [blanket bog](#).

Source data

Data are from the [Biodiversity Action Reporting System \(BARS\)](#).

The number of BAP Habitats will increase because the UKBAP priorities list was revised in 2007/08.

UK Indicators

Results for Scotland are similar to those for the UK as a whole (30% increasing; 27% stable / fluctuating; 42% declining).

References

Further reading and information is available from:

Biodiversity Action Plans is available from www.uk-bap.org.uk

Species Action Framework www.snh.org.uk/speciesactionframework

Biodiversity Reporting System www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk

Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/environment/sbiiyh-00.asp

TREND	No trend available
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DATA CONFIDENCE	Good/ satisfactory
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