4) Natural and semi-natural grasslands

1340* Inland salt meadows
2330 Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands
4030 European dry heaths
6110* Rupicolous calcareous or basophilic grasslands of the Alyss-Sedion albi
6190 Rupiculous pannonic grasslands (Stipo-Festucetalia pallentis)
6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometaalia) (*important orchid sites)
6230* Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)
6240* Sub-Pannonic steppic grassland
6250* Pannonic loess steppic grasslands
6260* Pannonic sand steppes
6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)
6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels
6440 Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the Cnidion dubii
6510 Lowland hay meadows (Arrhenatherion, Brachypodio-Centaureion nemoralis)
6520 Mountain hay meadows

Marsh fritillary Euphydryas aurinia
Earth-boring dung beetle Bolbelasmus unicornis
Dusky large blue Maculinea nausithous
Scarce large blue Maculinea teleius
Large copper Lycaena dispar
Pannonian ground beetle Carabus hungaricus
Locust Stenobothrus eurasius
European ground squirrel Spermophilus citellus
Danube clouded yellow Colias myrmidone

White stork Ciconia alba
Corncrake Crex crex
Short-eared owl Asio flammeus
Northern harrier Circus cyaneus
Ortolan bunting Emberiza hortulana

Russina viper’s bugloss Echium russicum
Bohemian gentian Gentianella bohemica
Bohemian sand pink* Dianthus arenarius subsp. bohemicus
Eastern sea kale Crambe tataria
Gally feather grass* Stipa zalesskii
Eastern pasque flower Pulsatilla patens
Pasque flower Pulsatilla grandis
Sandy iris Iris humilis subsp. arenaria
Swamp gladiolus Gladiolus palustris
Panci’s mugwort* Artemisia pancicii
Cornflower-like knapweed* Jurinea cyanoides
Hungarian saw-wort* Serratula lycopifolia
Long-leaved fleawort Tephroseris longifolia moravica
Austrian dragonhead Dracocephalum austriacum
Grassland habitats represent primary unforested areas but also include those formed and managed by man. Naturally unforested areas are kept treeless by factors (rocky substrate, dry climate) which block natural vegetation development (succession) into forests. Grass formations represent a wide range of various plant communities which play an important landscape function in the formation of the Czech landscape. They are sources of biodiversity and refuge for many endangered species.

Meadows and pastures belong to the most extended unforested habitats in our country. They occur scattered in the whole territory of the Czech Republic from lowlands to mountains. We found their large areas more likely in submontane and montane areas with extensive farming. Their occurrence depends on soil fertility, cutting or grazing, or on a combination of these factors. Naturally valuable meadows are not usually fertilized. Only in special cases are meadows extensively fertilized or limed.

6510 - Extensive hay meadows in lowlands and submontane altitudes (*Arrhenatherion, Brachypodio-Centaureion nemoralis*)

Grasslands with the false oat-grass are the most widespread type of semi-natural tall-herb meadows, which occur scattered across the whole territory of the Czech Republic from plains to submontane levels, especially around settlements. They are usually double-edged meadows which can be fertilized and limed. One must be careful not to overdose with nitrogen, as it can cause sclerophyllous grass species domination.

**Bohemian gentian** *Gentianella bohemica*

The Bohemian gentian is found mainly in used or recently abandoned pastures and extensively cut meadows. The optimal management of this biennial species requires animal grazing (sheep, goats), possibly grazing in combination with cutting or cutting and intensive biomass removal.

**European souslik** *Spermophilus citellus*

The European souslik requires short-stemmed grasslands, lately of predominantly artificial character (airports, golf courses). Regular cutting of grasslands is essential.

6230 * Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)

Matgrass grasslands are situated mainly in submontane and montane regions in acid soils in places of former forests. Grass cutting with a combination of grazing is a suitable management technique.
Marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*

Marshland meadows with devil's-bit scabious and a mosaic of shrubs are key characteristics of a biotope necessary for its survival. Diversity of its habitats is possible to maintain only by extensive farming, which is practised only rarely nowadays. That is why the marsh fritillary belongs to the most endangered species at present.