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## **Climate change sensitivity classification tool for habitats – first results of the INTERREG IV B CENTRAL EUROPE “HABIT-CHANGE” project**

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The assessment of climate-induced changes (CC) in habitat diversity is one priority focus of Habit-Change. The degree to which habitat types are affected in terms of sensitivity is interrelated to the biogeographical region. Therefore a simple CC sensitivity classification tool was developed, which aims to be locally valid and transferable to other regions.

National CC strategy papers were evaluated and seven habitat sensitivity criteria ranging from the ability to regenerate, distribution or water balance were adapted to be processed in a European context. The tool includes the habitat demands of plant species compositions by incorporating the indicators temperature and moisture from varying schemes per biogeographical region, following Landolt resp. Ellenberg.

The tool was tested on 6 out of 12 project investigation areas, consisting of 59 different habitat types listing overall 713 species. The criteria and indicators were transformed into low, medium and high index values.

The tool classified sensitivity of tested areas at least as medium, and indicator values varied according to habitat type.

The results underline the importance of a unified method at the European level, which allows for regionally and locally adapted indices and subsequently allows a adapted management in the protected areas.