

# **Annex 1: Area Categories**

Environmental report as part of the SEA to the NIP

Vienna, 2023

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# Introduction

Area categories<sup>1</sup> serve as indicators of the environmental characteristics of the area under study. The area categories are attributed certain typical characteristics such as the presence of natural habitats or legal stipulations (e.g. a prescribed protection status). They should be able to represent environmental characteristics well and be suitable for mapping potential conflicts (triggered by causes of environmental impacts) with the environmental objectives.

Examples: The "Natura 2000" area category serves as an indicator for environmental properties of the protected resource "Biological diversity, fauna and flora" and the area category "Settlement area" as an indicator for the protected resource "Population, settlement development".

The selected area categories are based on geodata available throughout Austria. The description of the selected area categories includes the protected resources depicted, their definition, the respective data basis and the assessment of the conflict risk<sup>2</sup>.

## **Explanation of the tables (assessment of conflict risk):**

The significance of the table for the assessment of the conflict risk refers to the legal and social value of the area category (e.g. nature conservation areas have high significance due to its legal designation alone). The sensitivity (S) describes the extent of the response of protected environmental resources to the causes of environmental impacts by project types of the NIP. The mapping accuracy (MA) represents how suitable a land use category is to map a potential conflict. Result is the assessment of the Conflict Risk (CR). All categories are evaluated using the rating levels "low", "medium", "high" and "very high".

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<sup>1</sup> Area categories are also referred to as geographically differentiated indicators.

<sup>2</sup> A detailed description is provided in the [environmental report in chapter 2.4.3](#).



Table 1 Assessment levels with colour coding

Assessment levels	Low	Medium	High	Very high
CR Conflict Risk	1	2	3	4
S Sensitivity	1	2	3	4
MA Mapping Accuracy	1	2	3	4

# 1 Area categories

## 1.1 Natura 2000

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Natura 2000" (EU bird sanctuaries and flora-fauna habitats) represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora, landscape and soils (only flora-fauna habitats).

### Definition

The Natura 2000 network of protected areas aims to permanently safeguard Europe's natural habitats. The legal basis for biotope and species protection within the European Union is the Birds Directive and the Flora-Fauna Habitats Directive.

The Natura 2000 network comprises 350 sites in Austria, 281 of which are legally designated as European protected areas (as of January 2022; sources: Offices of the Provincial Governments; Federal Environment Agency). It includes protected areas in the categories of national park, nature reserve, landscape conservation area and protected landscape area, as well as areas that do not yet have a protection category.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital dataset of the "Nature Conservation Areas Austria" available at the Federal Environment Agency (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH based on INSPIRE services of the provinces: © Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Vienna).

### Meaning of the area category

**High**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 2 Conflict Risk - Natura 2000 Bird sanctuaries; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	2	3	3	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	3	2	3	4	3	3
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	2	3	3	2
	Route cutting, clearing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	4	3	3

Table 3 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Natura 2000 bird sanctuaries.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
<b>Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Very high	Very high
<b>Protected resource - Landscape</b>	Very high	Very high
<b>Area category - Natura 2000 Bird sanctuaries</b>	Very high	Very high

Table 4 Conflict Risk - Natura 2000 Flora-Fauna Habitat areas; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	2	3	3	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	3	2	3	4	3	3
<b>Ground</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Utilisation of other resources (soils, raw, materials, energy, etc.)	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	3	2	3	4	3	3
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	2	3	3	2
	Route cutting, clearing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	4	3	3

Table 5 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Natura 2000 Flora-Fauna Habitat areas.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
<b>Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Very high	Very high
<b>Protected resource - Soils</b>	High	Very high
<b>Protected resource - Landscape</b>	Very high	Very high
<b>Area category - Natura2000 Flora-Fauna Habitat areas</b>	Very high	Very high

## 1.2 Protected resource flora-fauna habitat occurrences outside Natura 2000 areas

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Protected resource flora-fauna habitat occurrences outside Natura 2000 areas" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora and soils.

### Definition

The Flora-Fauna Habitats Directive also regulates species protection outside Natura 2000 sites (Articles 12 and 13) as well as the monitoring of the conservation status of habitats and species (Article 11) and the corresponding reporting obligations (Article 17) throughout the territory of the Member States.<sup>3</sup>

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital dataset of the findings database of the report per Article 17 of Directive 92/43/EEC, Flora-Fauna Habitat Directive, available at the Federal Environment Agency (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH based on the data findings of the provinces: © Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Vienna). In the course of the evaluations, only the delineated habitat polygons of the findings database were used; data on the distribution of species were not included in the following assessments.

### Meaning of the area category

**High**

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<sup>3</sup> Source: [https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima\\_umwelt/naturschutz/natura2000.html](https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima_umwelt/naturschutz/natura2000.html)

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 6 Conflict Risk - Protected resource flora-fauna habitat occurrences outside Natura 2000 areas; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Ground</b>	Land use, sealing	4	3	3	3	2	3
	Utilisation of other resources (soils, raw, materials, energy, etc.)	4	3	3	3	2	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3

Table 7 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Protected resource flora-fauna habitat occurrences outside Natura 2000 areas.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
<b>Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Very high	Very high
<b>Protected resource - Soils</b>	Very high	Very high
<b>Area category - Protected resource flora-fauna habitat occurrences outside Natura 2000 areas</b>	Very high	Very high

## 1.3 Nature reserves

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Nature conservation areas" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora, landscape and soils.

### Definition

A nature conservation area is a largely natural or near-natural area characterised by the presence of habitats worthy of protection and/or the occurrence of rare or endangered animal and plant species. The protection of these natural assets is paramount; interventions incompatible with the conservation objective are to be prevented.

The protected area type "nature conservation area" is one of the most important categories of land protection in Austria. As a rule, however, agricultural and forestry uses are permitted "to the extent hitherto existing", even if in principle any interference with nature is prohibited.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital dataset of the "Nature Conservation Areas Austria" available at the Federal Environment Agency (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH based on INSPIRE services of the provinces: © Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Vienna).

### Meaning of the area category

**High**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 8 Conflict Risk - Nature conservation areas; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Ground</b>	Land use, sealing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Utilisation of other resources (soils, raw, materials, energy, etc.)	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	4	3	3



Table 9 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Nature conservation areas.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora	Very high	Very high
Protected resource - Soils	Very high	Very high
Protected resource - Landscape	Very high	Very high
Area category - Nature conservation areas	Very high	Very high

## 1.4 National parks

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "National Parks" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora, landscape and soils.

### Definition

National parks are particularly valuable protected areas from an ecological point of view: Here, nature has absolute priority. Six of Austria's most ecologically valuable regions are internationally recognised national parks.

Protected areas in this category, are managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreational purposes. Natural developments should proceed as undisturbed as possible. This makes national parks ideally suited research areas for stocktaking, long-term ecological studies and permanent observation (monitoring).

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital dataset of the "Nature Conservation Areas Austria" available at the Federal Environment Agency (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH based on INSPIRE services of the provinces: © Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Vienna).

## Meaning of the area category

High

### Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 10 Conflict Risk - National Parks; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Ground</b>	Land use, sealing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Utilisation of other resources (soils, raw, materials, energy, etc.)	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	4	3	3

Table 11 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: National parks.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora	Very high	Very high
Protected resource - Soils	Very high	Very high
Protected resource - Landscape	Very high	Very high
Area category - National parks	Very high	Very high

## 1.5 Protected natural monuments areas

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Natural monuments" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora and landscape.

### Definition

A natural monument is a protected natural entity that is to be preserved in the public interest because of its scientific, historical or cultural significance or because of its uniqueness, beauty, rarity or special character for the landscape.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital dataset of the "Nature Conservation Areas Austria" available at the Federal Environment Agency (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH based on INSPIRE services of the provinces: © Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Vienna).

### Meaning of the area category

**High**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 12 Conflict Risk - Protected natural monuments areas; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	4	3	3

Table 13 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Protected natural monuments areas.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
<b>Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Very high	Very high
<b>Protected resource - Landscape</b>	Very high	Very high
<b>Area category - Protected natural monuments areas</b>	Very high	Very high

## 1.6 Protected landscape areas

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Protected landscape areas" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora and landscape.

### Definition

A protected landscape area is – in contrast to the usually large-scale landscape protection areas – a small-scale, protected section of the landscape.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital dataset of the "Nature Conservation Areas Austria" available at the Federal Environment Agency (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH based on INSPIRE services of the provinces: © Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Vienna).

### Meaning of the area category

**High**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 14 Conflict Risk - Protected landscape areas; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	4	3	3

Table 15 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Protected landscape areas.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
<b>Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Very high	Very high
<b>Protected resource - Landscape</b>	Very high	Very high
<b>Area category - Protected landscape areas</b>	Very high	Very high

## 1.7 Landscape conservation areas

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Landscape conservation areas" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora and landscape.

### Definition

Landscape protection areas are areas with a special character, high aesthetic value or recreational value of the landscape. The primary conservation purpose of this category is the preservation of the landscape. The special importance of the area for the population or tourism is to be safeguarded. Landscape conservation areas can also serve as buffer zones around nature conservation areas. As a rule, the protection ordinance prohibits certain projects or makes them subject to authorisation.

Landscape conservation areas are the most widespread among the protection categories in Austria in terms of area. In 2017, there were 316 landscape conservation areas throughout Austria.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital dataset of the "Nature Conservation Areas Austria" available at the Federal Environment Agency (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH based on INSPIRE services of the provinces: © Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Vienna).

### Meaning of the area category

**Medium**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 16 Conflict Risk - Landscape conservation areas; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	1	1	2	2	2	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	2	2	3	2
	Access roads, traffic excitation	2	2	2	2	3	2
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	1	1	2	2	2	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Visual, aesthetic changes	2	2	2	2	2	2

Table 17 Conflict risk related to across protected resources: Landscape conservation areas.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
<b>Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Medium	Medium
<b>Protected resource - Landscape</b>	Medium	Medium
<b>Area category - Landscape conservation areas</b>	Medium	Medium



## 1.8 Nature parks

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Nature parks" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora and landscape.

### Definition

Nature parks comprise landscape areas that are particularly suitable for recreation or for imparting knowledge about nature due to their scenic conditions. "Nature park" is not a protected area category in its own right, but a predicate awarded to nature reserves or landscape conservation areas.

in 1995 the Association of Nature Parks of Austria was founded, 48 nature parks are part of this umbrella organisation.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital dataset of the "Nature Conservation Areas Austria" available at the Federal Environment Agency (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH based on INSPIRE services of the provinces: © Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Vienna).

### Meaning of the area category

**Medium**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 18 Conflict Risk - Nature parks; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	1	1	2	2	2	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	2	2	3	2
	Access roads, traffic excitation	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	1	1	2	2	2	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Visual, aesthetic changes	2	2	2	2	2	2

Table 19 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Nature parks.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
<b>Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Medium	Medium
<b>Protected resource - Landscape</b>	Medium	Medium
<b>Area category - Nature parks</b>	Medium	Medium

## 1.9 Wilderness areas

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Wilderness areas" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora and landscape.

### Definition

The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) defines **wilderness areas (category 1b)** as "protected areas that have remained unaltered ("unmodified") over large areas, have retained their natural character and have never been permanently or significantly inhabited by humans".

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital dataset of the "Nature Conservation Areas Austria" available at the Federal Environment Agency (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH based on INSPIRE services of the provinces: © Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Vienna).

### Meaning of the area category

**High**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 20 Conflict Risk - Wilderness areas; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	4	3	3

Table 21 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Wilderness areas.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
<b>Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Very high	Very high
<b>Protected resource - Landscape</b>	Very high	Very high
<b>Area category - Wilderness areas</b>	Very high	Very high

## 1.10 Biosphere reserves (core zone, maintenance zone, development zone)

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Biosphere reserves (core zone, maintenance zone, development zone)" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora and landscape.

### Definition

The "UNESCO biosphere parks" have a special position. Models for integrated sustainable development of the region and which also protect the environment, are to be tested and implemented in the internationally recognised areas of the UNESCO biosphere parks. Worldwide, there are 738 biosphere parks in 134 countries (UNESCO, 2022) - in Austria there are currently four biosphere parks.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital dataset of the "Nature Conservation Areas Austria" available at the Federal Environment Agency (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH based on INSPIRE services of the provinces: © Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Vienna).

### Meaning of the area category

**High**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 22 Conflict Risk - Biosphere reserves: Core zone; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	4	3	3

Table 23 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Biosphere reserves: Core zone.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora	Very high	Very high
Protected resource - Landscape	Very high	Very high
<b>Area category - Biosphere reserves: Core zone</b>	<b>Very high</b>	<b>Very high</b>

Table 24 Conflict Risk - Biosphere reserves: Maintenance zone; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	2	3	3	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	3	3	2	3	3	2
	Route cutting, clearing	3	2	3	3	3	2
	Access roads, traffic excitation	3	2	3	3	3	2
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	2	3	3	2
	Route cutting, clearing	3	2	3	3	3	2
	Visual, aesthetic changes	3	3	2	3	3	2

Table 25 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Biosphere reserves: Maintenance zone.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora	High	High
Protected resource - Landscape	High	High
Area category - Biosphere reserves: Maintenance zone	High	High

Table 26 Conflict Risk - Biosphere reserves: Development zone; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	2	3	3	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	3	3	2	3	3	2
	Route cutting, clearing	3	2	3	3	3	2
	Access roads, traffic excitation	3	2	3	3	3	2
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	2	3	3	2
	Route cutting, clearing	3	2	3	3	3	2
	Visual, aesthetic changes	3	3	2	3	3	2

Table 27 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Biosphere reserves: Development zone.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
<b>Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Medium	Medium
<b>Protected resource - Landscape</b>	Medium	Medium
<b>Area category - Biosphere reserves: Development zone</b>	Medium	Medium



## 1.11 Ramsar sites

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Ramsar sites" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora, landscape and soils.

### Definition

A key concern of the Ramsar Convention is to promote the conservation of wetlands. Ramsar is a label (seal of quality) that can be awarded to internationally important wetlands. Almost all Ramsar sites in Austria are also legally prescribed protected areas and designated as nature reserves, for example.

Austria has 23 Ramsar sites with a total area of about 1250 km<sup>2</sup>, which corresponds to about 1.5% of Austria's national territory. Almost all of them are forest areas, in addition to large river areas and lake shores as well as numerous important moors.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital dataset of the "Nature Conservation Areas Austria" available at the Federal Environment Agency (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH based on INSPIRE services of the provinces: © Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Vienna).

### Meaning of the area category

**Medium**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 28 Conflict Risk - Ramsar sites; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	2	2	3	3	3	3
<b>Ground</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Utilisation of other resources (soils, raw, materials, energy, etc.)	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	3	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	3	3	3	3	3	3

Table 29 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Ramsar sites.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora	High	High
Protected resource - Landscape	High	High
Area category - Ramsar sites	High	High

## 1.12 Habitat connectivity

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Habitat connectivity" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna and flora.

### Definition

The habitat corridors represent those landscape sections in Austria that show high structural connectivity and thus still have a high connectivity potential. The corridors should be seen as an absolute minimum level of interlinking and should be urgently maintained for minimum landscape connectivity. The designation of habitat corridors is based on GIS models and expert-based validation. The dataset also takes into account all datasets and habitat corridor designations from scientific projects and projects funded or supported by the public sector.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital dataset of the "Lebensraumkorridore Österreich 2022" [Habitat corridors Austria] available at the Federal Environment Agency.

### Meaning of the area category

**Medium**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 30 Conflict Risk - Habitat connectivity; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	2	2	3	2
	Access roads, traffic excitation	2	2	2	2	2	2

Table 31 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Habitat connectivity.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora	High	High
Area category - Ramsar sites	High	High

### 1.13 Settlement area zoning (closed development)

#### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Settlement area zoning (closed development)" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources population, settlement development, human health.

## Definition

Closed settlement areas are understood to be functionally and structurally coherent areas containing predominantly residential houses or buildings with a predominantly residential purpose.

## Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital data set "ÖROK - Monitoring der Flächeninanspruchnahme in Österreich" [Monitoring of land use in Austria] (technically agreed within the framework of ÖROK and calculated by the Federal Environment Agency on behalf of ÖROK), which is available from the Federal Environment Agency.

## Meaning of the area category

**High**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 32 Conflict Risk - Settlement area; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Population, settlement development, human health</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	3	2	3
	Electromagnetic fields	4	3	3	-	-	-
	Risk for accidents or failures	2	1	3	2	1	3
	Noise emissions (operating noise and traffic noise, construction phase)	4	3	3	-	-	-

Table 33 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Settlement area.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Population, settlement development, human health	Very high	High
Area category - Settlement area zoning (closed development)	Very high	High

## 1.14 Farmsteads and loose hamlet zoning

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Farmsteads and loose hamlets" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources population, settlement development, human health.

### Definition

In contrast to coherent settlement areas, farmsteads and loose hamlets do not have a closed development and no building with a central function (e.g. church, inn). Buildings are typically scattered over a large area in a loose arrangement.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital data set "ÖROK - Monitoring der Flächeninanspruchnahme in Österreich" [Monitoring of land use in Austria] (technically agreed within the framework of ÖROK and calculated by the Federal Environment Agency on behalf of ÖROK), which is available from the Federal Environment Agency.

### Meaning of the area category

**High**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 34 Conflict Risk - Farmsteads and loose hamlets; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Population, settlement development, human health</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	3	2	3
	Electromagnetic fields	4	3	3	-	-	-
	Risk for accidents or failures	2	1	3	2	1	3
	Noise emissions (operating noise and traffic noise, construction phase)	4	3	3	-	-	-

Table 35 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Farmsteads and loose hamlets.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
<b>Protected resource - Population, settlement development, human health</b>	High	High
<b>Area category - Farmsteads and loose hamlet zoning</b>	High	High

## 1.15 Zoning of operational areas

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Zoning for industrial, business and commercial areas" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources population, settlement development, human health.

## Definition

Business parks comprise areas for use by industry, commerce and shopping centres and are characterised by large-scale and large-volume buildings.

## Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital data set "ÖROK - Monitoring der Flächeninanspruchnahme in Österreich" [Monitoring of land use in Austria] (technically agreed within the framework of ÖROK and calculated by the Federal Environment Agency on behalf of ÖROK), which is available from the Federal Environment Agency.

## Meaning of the area category

**Medium**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 36 Conflict Risk - Industrial area; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Population, settlement development, human health</b>	Land use, sealing	1	1	3	1	1	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	1	1	3	1	1	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	1	1	3	1	1	3
	Electromagnetic fields	1	1	3	-	-	-
	Risk for accidents or failures	1	1	3	1	1	3
	Noise emissions (operating noise and traffic noise, construction phase)	1	1	3	-	-	-



Table 37 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Industrial areas.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Population, settlement development, human health	Low	Low
Area category - Operational area zoning (industrial areas)	Low	Low

## 1.16 Valuable agricultural production areas

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Valuable agricultural production areas" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources population, settlement development, human health and soils.

### Definition

Fertile soils in sufficient quantities are the basis for ensuring food security in Austria. The identification and presentation of Austria's most fertile soils are an important basis for optimising spatial planning and reducing the loss of valuable agricultural land.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital data set of the "Wertvollen landwirtschaftlichen Produktionsflächen (BEAT)" [Valuable Agricultural Production Areas] of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management [BML] (Hans-Peter Haslmayr, Andreas Baumgarten, Michael Schwarz, Sigbert Huber, Gundula Prokop, Katrin Sedy, Carmen Krammer, Erwin Murer, Hannes Pock, Christian Rodlauer, Andreas Schaumberger, Imran Nadeem and Herbert Formayer, 2018, BEAT - Bodenbedarf für die Ernährungssicherung in Österreich [Soil requirements for food security in Austria], Final Report on Research Project No. 100975 of the BMNT, Vienna 2018).

## Meaning of the area category

Comparatively **low**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 38 Conflict Risk - Valuable agricultural production areas; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power line			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Population, settlement development, human health</b>	Land use, sealing	1	1	3	1	1	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	1	1	3	1	1	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	1	1	3	1	1	3
	Electromagnetic fields	1	1	3	1	1	3
	Risk for accidents or failures	1	1	3	1	1	3
	Noise emissions (operating noise and traffic noise, construction phase)	1	1	3	1	1	3
<b>Ground</b>	Land use, sealing	1	1	3	2	2	3
	Utilisation of other resources (soils, raw, materials, energy, etc.)	2	2	3	2	2	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	2	2	3	2	2	3
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	3	2	2	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	2	2	3	2	2	3

Table 39 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Valuable agricultural production areas.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Population, settlement development, human health	Medium	Medium
Protected resource - Soils	Medium	Medium
Area category - Valuable agricultural production areas	Medium	Medium

## 1.17 High Nature Value (HNV) Farmland

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "High Nature Value Farmland" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora and soils.

### Definition

High Nature Value (HNV) Farmland comprises those predominantly agricultural areas and land in Austria where agriculture ensures and promotes high species and habitat diversity and the presence of species of European, national or regional conservation interest.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital data set of the "High Nature Value (HNV) Farmland" from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management [BML], which is available from the Federal Environment Agency. In the present assessment, only those grid cells of HNV type 1 and HNV type 2 that contain more than 50% HNV areas were used.

### Meaning of the area category

**Medium**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 40 Conflict Risk - HNV Farmland; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	2	1	3	2	2	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	2	2	3	2	2	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	2	2	3	2	2	3
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	3	2	2	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	2	2	3	2	2	3
<b>Ground</b>	Land use, sealing	3	2	3	4	3	3
	Utilisation of other resources (soils, raw, materials, energy, etc.)	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3

Table 41 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: HNV Farmland.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
<b>Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Medium	Medium
<b>Protected resource - Soils</b>	Medium	Medium
<b>Area category - HNV Farmland</b>	Medium	Medium

## 1.18 Arable land, grassland and permanent crops

### Protected resources illustrated

The area categories arable land and grassland represent potential conflicts with soil as a protected resource.

### Definition

Arable land is that part of the cultivated landscape that is regularly worked and generally subject to crop rotation, i.e. regularly planted or sown with changing species. Grassland, on the other hand, is defined as land that has been continuously covered with grass or other green fodder crops for five years and is not part of the crop rotation. Accordingly, grassland refers to the agriculturally used area on which grasses, legumes and herbs grow as permanent crops. Unlike arable land, grassland is not ploughed up. Permanent crops are crops that are not included in the crop rotation and are grown on one area over several years and produce recurring yields. These are mainly fruit and berry bearing trees and shrubs and vines.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital data set "CORINE-Landbedeckung 2018 (CLC 2018)" [CORINE land coverage] (Umweltbundesamt GmbH & European Union, Copernicus Land Monitoring Service 2018, European Environment Agency (EEA), with funding by the European Union) which is available from the Federal Environment Agency. The CORINE land coverage classes 211 Non-irrigated cropland, 221 Vineyards, 222 Fruit/berry orchards, 242 Complex parcel structures, 243 Agricultural land with areas of natural vegetation of significant size and 244 Agro-forestry were used for the present assessment.

### Meaning of the area category

Comparatively **low**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 42 Conflict Risk - Arable land and grassland; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Ground</b>	Land use, sealing	1	1	2	1	1	2
	Utilisation of other resources (soils, raw, materials, energy, etc.)	1	1	2	1	1	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	1	2	2	1	2	2
	Route cutting, clearing	1	2	2	1	2	2
	Access roads, traffic excitation	1	2	2	1	2	2

Table 43 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Arable land and grassland.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Soils	Low	Low
Area category - Arable land and grassland	Low	Low

## 1.19 Forest

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Forest" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora and soils.

## **Definition**

Land is considered forest if it is covered with forest vegetation and has an average width of at least ten metres and a minimum area of 1000 m<sup>2</sup>. The forest area in Austria amounts to more than four million hectares, which corresponds to 47.9% of the national territory.

## **Data basis**

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital data set "CORINE-Landbedeckung 2018 (CLC 2018)" [CORINE land coverage] (Umweltbundesamt GmbH & European Union, Copernicus Land Monitoring Service 2018, European Environment Agency (EEA), with funding by the European Union) which is available from the Federal Environment Agency. The CORINE land coverage classes 311 Deciduous forests, 312 Coniferous forests and 313 Mixed forests were used for the present assessment.

## **Meaning of the area category**

**Medium**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 44 Conflict Risk - Forest; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	2	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	2	2	2	2	3	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	2	3	2	2	3	2
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	2	2	3	2
	Access roads, traffic excitation	2	2	2	2	3	2
<b>Ground</b>	Land use, sealing	1	1	2	2	2	2
	Utilisation of other resources (soils, raw, materials, energy, etc.)	1	1	2	1	1	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Access roads, traffic excitation	2	2	2	2	2	2

Table 45 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Forest.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora	Medium	Medium
Protected resource - Soils	Medium	Medium
Area category - Forest	Medium	Medium



## 1.20 Running waters

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Running waters" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora as well as water and landscape.

### Definition

Running waters are all surface inland waters with permanently or intermittently flowing water.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital data set available at the Federal Environment Agency from the "Gesamtgewässernetz - Fließgewässer" [Total Water Body Network - Running Waters] of the total Austrian water network [GGN] (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management [BML], Section I, Division 2).

### Meaning of the area category

**Medium**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 46 Conflict Risk - Running waters; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	2	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Access roads, traffic excitation	2	2	2	3	3	2
<b>Water</b>	Changes to the hydrology	2	1	2	2	1	2
	Route cutting	2	1	2	2	1	2
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	2	3	3	2
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Visual, aesthetic changes	3	3	2	3	3	2

Table 47 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Running waters.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora	Medium	Medium
Protected resource - Water	Medium	Medium
Protected resource - Landscape	High	High
<b>Area category - Running waters</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>

## 1.21 Standing waters

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Standing waters" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora as well as water and landscape.

### Definition

Standing waters are water bodies that do not exhibit permanent directional flow.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital data set available at the Federal Environment Agency from the "Gesamtgewässernetz - Stehende Gewässer" [Total Water Body Network - Standing Waters] of the total Austrian water network [GGN] (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management [BML], Section I, Division 2).

### Meaning of the area category

**High**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 48 Conflict Risk - Standing waters; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Access roads, traffic excitation	2	2	2	3	3	2
<b>Water</b>	Changes to the hydrology	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Route cutting	2	1	2	2	1	2
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	2	3	3	2
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	2	3	3	2
	Visual, aesthetic changes	3	3	2	3	3	2

Table 49 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Standing waters.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
<b>Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Medium	Medium
<b>Protected resource - Water</b>	Medium	Medium
<b>Protected resource - Landscape</b>	High	High
<b>Area category - Standing waters</b>	High	High

## 1.22 Water protection areas (protection zone I)

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Water protection areas (protection zone I)" represents potential conflicts with the protected resource water.

### Definition

The purpose of water protection areas is to avoid negative impacts on drinking water. They are zones decreed by notice in which special instructions are made concerning the management or other use of land and water. Water protection areas are intended both to prevent contamination of wells and springs of a water supply system and to safeguard its yield. Protected areas therefore serve to avert acute dangers and are to be understood as prohibition zones. Due to legal requirements and technical needs, all drinking water supply systems require protected areas. The intensity of the protection orders depends on the distance from the extraction facility and the extent of the influence on the groundwater.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital data set available at the Federal Environment Agency from the "Wasserschutzgebiete" [Water protection areas] of the National Water Management Plan [NGP] (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management [BML]). "Protection Zone I" category areas, which aim to protect the immediate surroundings of the water catchment, were used in this assessment.

### Meaning of the area category

**High**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 50 Conflict Risk - Water protection areas (protection zone I); CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
Water	Changes to the hydrology	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting	4	3	3	4	3	3

Conflict risk related to protected goods and across protected resources: Water protection areas (protection zone I).

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Water	Very high	Very high
Area category - Water protection areas (protection zone I)	Very high	Very high

## 1.23 River floodplains

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "River floodplains" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora as well as water and landscape.

### Definition

Floodplains are near-natural, temporarily flooded riparian areas of watercourses and lakes, which are characterised by both surface water and strongly fluctuating groundwater. The associated river dynamics with erosion, sedimentation and flooding, but also the influence of groundwater, lead to a high diversity of habitats and species. About

60% of the area of the floodplains is protected, mostly as Natura 2000 sites, but also in the form of nature reserves and landscape conservation areas.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital data set of the "Inventars der Auobjekte Österreichs" [Inventory of Austria's wetlands] available at the Federal Environment Agency (compilation by Umweltbundesamt GmbH based on: Lazowski, Werner and Ulrich Schwarz, 2011), Inventory of Austria's wetlands: Report on the nationwide overview of wetlands, Vienna.).

### Meaning of the area category

Medium

### Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 51 Conflict Risk - River floodplains; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	2	2	3	3	3	3
<b>Water</b>	Changes to the hydrology	2	1	3	2	2	3
	Route cutting	2	1	3	2	2	3
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	3	3	3	3

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	3	3	3	3	3	3

Table 52 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: River floodplains.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora	High	High
Protected resource - Water	Medium	Medium
Protected resource - Landscape	High	High
Area category - River floodplains	High	High

## 1.24 Wetland inventory

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Wetland inventory" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora as well as soils and landscape.

### Definition

Wetlands include a variety of habitats, for example streams and rivers with associated riparian forests, but also lakes, ponds, springs, bogs or wet meadows. In addition to their importance for the water cycle, they are also characterised by their high ecological importance and the diversity of biotic communities.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital data set of the "Abgrenzung der Feuchtgebiete gemäß Feuchtgebietsinventar" [Demarcation of wetlands in accordance



with the wetlands inventory] available at the Federal Environment Agency (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH based on the visual demarcation from orthophotos based on area designation of the federal states, specialist literature and expert knowledge).

## Meaning of the area category

**Medium**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 53 Conflict Risk - Wetland inventory; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	3	3	3	2
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	3	3	3	2
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	3	3	3	3	3	2
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	3	3	3	2
	Access roads, traffic excitation	2	2	3	3	3	2
<b>Ground</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Utilisation of other resources (soils, raw, materials, energy, etc.)	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	3	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	2	2	3	2	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	3	3	3	2	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	2	2	3	3	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	3	3	3	3	3	3

Table 54 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Wetland inventory.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora	High	High
Protected resource - Soils	High	High
Protected resource - Landscape	High	High
Area category - Wetland inventory	High	High

## 1.25 Moorland conservation catalogue

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "Moorland conservation catalogue" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora as well as soils, water and landscape.

### Definition

Moorlands perform a variety of functions for society and nature. In addition to contributing to climate protection, they also play an important role in the landscape water balance. As wetlands, they are unique ecosystems and provide habitats for specialised animal and plant species. Moorlands not only make an important contribution to biodiversity conservation, but also represent the most effective carbon stores of all terrestrial habitats.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital data set of the "EUNIS Biotoptypen Österreichs 2018" [EUNIS Biotope Types of Austria 2018] (compiled by Umweltbundesamt GmbH) available at the Federal Environment Agency.

### Meaning of the area category

**High**

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 55 Conflict Risk - Moorland conservation catalogue; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Ground</b>	Land use, sealing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Utilisation of other resources (soils, raw, materials, energy, etc.)	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Water</b>	Changes to the hydrology	-	-	-	4	3	3
	Route cutting	-	-	-	4	3	3
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	4	3	3

Table 56 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: Moorland protection catalogue.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora	Very high	Very high
Protected resource - Soils	Very high	Very high
Protected resource - Water	Very high	Very high
Protected resource - Landscape	Very high	Very high
Area category - Moorland conservation catalogue	Very high	Very high

## 1.26 UNESCO World Cultural Heritage and World Natural Heritage Sites

### Protected resources illustrated

The area category "UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources cultural heritage and landscape. The area category "UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site" represents potential conflicts with the protected resources biodiversity, fauna, flora and landscape.

### Definition

UNESCO World Heritage Sites are testimonies to past cultures and the treasures of existing ones. World Heritage Sites can also be natural landscapes of special beauty and diversity. World Heritage sites must be protected from deterioration or destruction and preserved for future generations. Their protection is regulated by the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

### Data basis

The data basis for the GIS analysis is the digital dataset of the "Nature Conservation Areas Austria" available at the Federal Environment Agency (compiled by Umweltbundesamt

GmbH based on INSPIRE services of the provinces: © Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Vienna).

## Meaning of the area category

High

## Assessment of the conflict risk

Table 57 Conflict Risk - UNESCO World Heritage Nature; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Land use, sealing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Terrain change, fragmentation, separation or barrier effects, erosion, compaction, loosening	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Access roads, traffic excitation	4	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Landscape</b>	Land use, sealing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	4	3	3

Table 58 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: UNESCO World Heritage Nature.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
<b>Protected resource - Biodiversity, fauna, flora</b>	Very high	Very high

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Landscape	Very high	Very high
Area category - UNESCO World Heritage Nature	Very high	Very high

Table 59 Conflict Risk - UNESCO World Heritage Culture; CR: Conflict Risk; S: Sensitivity, MA: Mapping Accuracy.

Protected resources	Potential conflicts (assigned protected resource)	Overhead power lines			New construction of gas pipelines		
		CR	S	MA	CR	S	MA
Tangible assets, cultural heritage	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	4	3	3
Landscape	Land use, sealing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Use or design of nature and landscape	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Route cutting, clearing	4	3	3	4	3	3
	Visual, aesthetic changes	4	3	3	4	3	3

Table 60 Conflict risk related to and across protected resources: UNESCO World Heritage Culture.

Conflict risk	Overhead power lines	New construction of gas pipelines
Protected resource - Tangible assets, cultural heritage	Very high	Very high
Protected resource - Landscape	Very high	Very high
Area category - UNESCO World Heritage Culture	Very high	Very high

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