


## Ecosystem restoration – European Union 4-tier Arcadis model



Level	Description	Description	Examples
Level 1	Physical characteristics of the ecosystem operate unhindered. Natural processes are good. Key species populations are stable or increasing and natural processes are in good to excellent condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitats and species designated for nature conservation in <b>favourable condition</b></li> <li>Rivers and lakes in high or <b>good ecological status</b>.</li> <li>Marine ecosystems in <b>good ecological status</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natura sites and other designated sites in favourable condition, with active conservation management plans in place.</li> </ul>
Level 2	Satisfactory physical conditions, some disrupted ecological processes and functions, either at site level or at landscape level or at both levels. Reduced or declining diversity of key species compared to Level 1 but retains stable populations of some native species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitats and species designated for nature conservation in <b>unfavourable condition</b></li> <li>Rivers and lakes in <b>moderate ecological status</b>.</li> <li>Marine ecosystems in <b>moderate ecological status</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natura and other designated sites in unfavourable condition. Identification of remedies undertaken but action to secure change through management plans required.</li> </ul>
Level 3	Highly modified physical conditions, many disrupted ecological processes and functions, either at site level or at landscape level or at both levels. Dominated by artificial habitats but retains some native species and stable populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-protected rural areas (not including intensive agriculture).</li> <li>Rivers and lakes in <b>poor ecological status</b>.</li> <li>Marine ecosystems in <b>poor ecological status</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat occurring on non-designated sites that retains some native species but populations may be small and isolated.</li> </ul>
Level 4	Highly modified physical conditions, severely reduced ecological processes and functions, both at site level and at landscape level. Dominated by artificial habitats with few and/or declining populations of native species; traces of original ecosystem hardly visible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heavily modified ecosystems, e.g. intensive agriculture, build urban areas, roads, airports, brownfield areas, heavily modified water bodies; heavily degraded 'natural' and 'semi-natural' ecosystems</li> <li>Rivers and lakes in <b>bad ecological status</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitats that retain little or no native species and where physical modification prevents natural processes.</li> </ul>