



# Military Training Areas Islands of Biodiversity

Military training areas provide special refuge for numerous plant and animal species, many of which have been in decline or have disappeared from the standard cultivated landscape. These islands of biodiversity have developed because they are characterized by large, uninhabited areas that are not fragmented by traffic infrastructure and have not been subject to conventional use of agricultural fertilizers and pesticides. Military training mimics natural disturbances, resulting in various stages of vegetation succession and diversely structured habitats. These habitats support incredible biodiversity and are preserved due to the military use.



**"...most of the military areas, and especially those used for training and testing, contain significant, even spectacular, amounts of natural and semi-natural habitats and landscapes, with corresponding abundances of wildlife...  
...they are among the richest and most important sites for biodiversity in their country."**

**European Commission**

