



Natura 2000 habitats of Mediterranean countries are distinct

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Mediterranean basin



(Center for Applied Biodiversity Science, 2007)

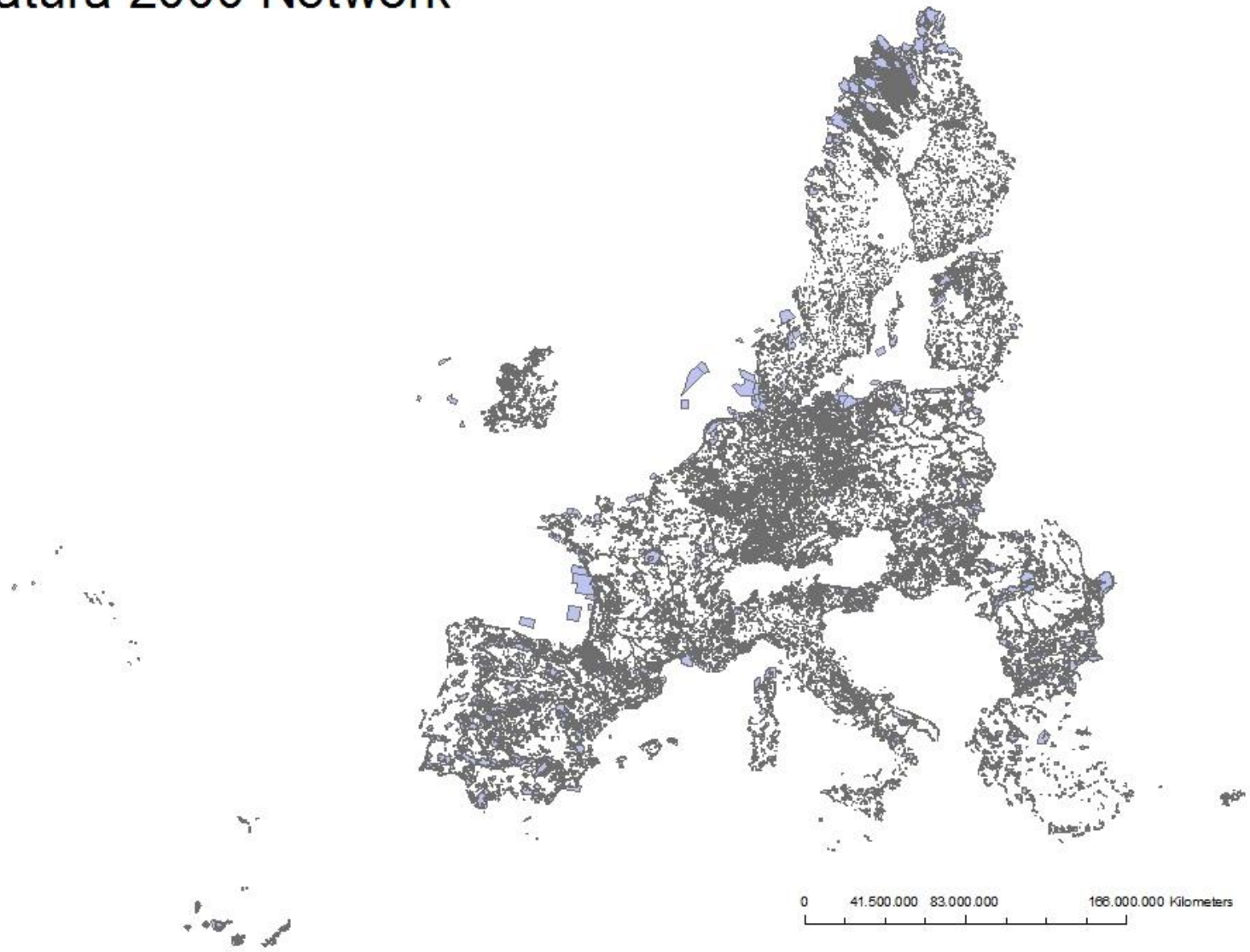
Eura 2000 Habitat ty

230 habitats fits into 9 type classes:

- 1- Coastal and halophytic habitats
- 2- Coastal sand dunes and continental dunes
- 3- Freshwater habitats
- 4- Temperate heath and scrub
- 5- Sclerophyllous scrub (*matorral*)
- 6- Natural and semi-natural grassland formations
- 7- Raised bogs and mires and fens
- 8- Rocky habitats and caves
 - 9- Forests



Natura 2000 Network



<http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/natura-2000/>



The aim of the study

- Compare Natura 2000 areas in Mediterranean Europe and the other regions (Central and Baltic)
- Test the hypothesis that mediterranean countries have higher habitat diversity
- Test the hypothesis that mediterranean countries have higher fragmentation in this natural habitats

Methodology

- We considered three country groups, based in latitude criteria: Baltic, Central Europe and Mediterranean Europe;
- Analised composition, richness and diversity
- Compared mean habitat area per site
- Analised dependence of habitat diversity in area of study





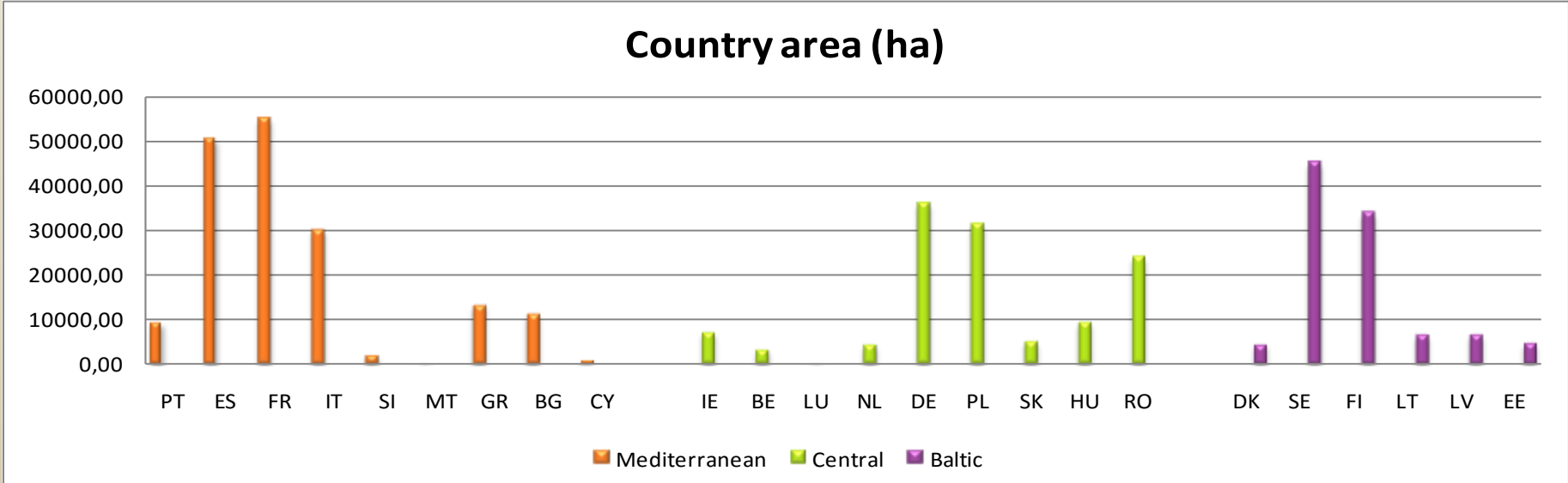
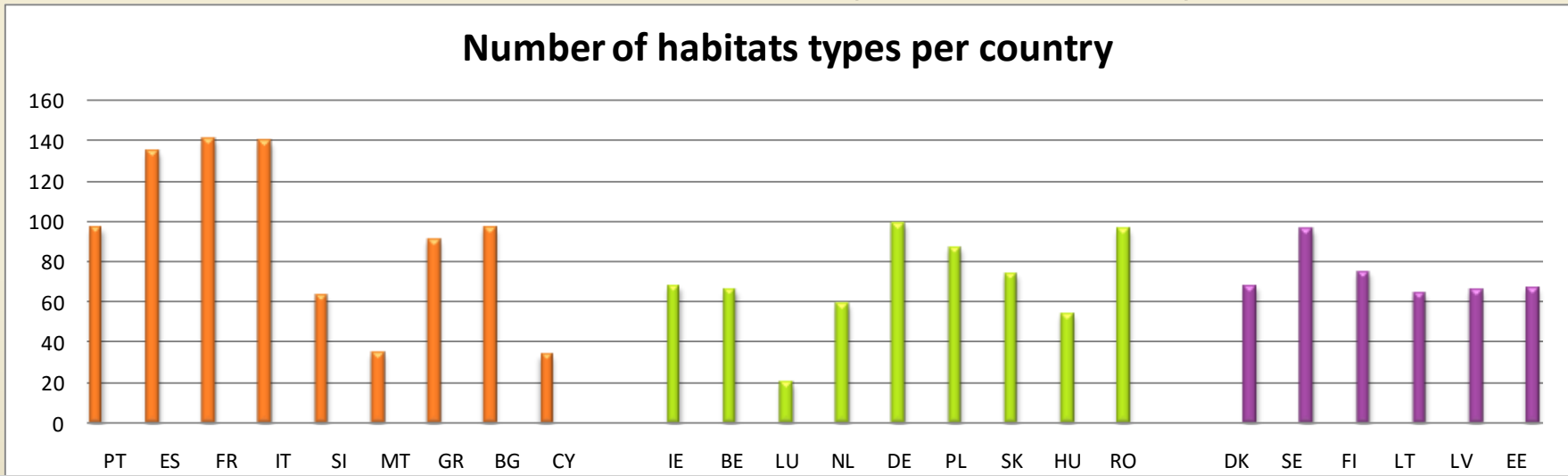
Mediterranean EU	
PT	Portugal
ES	Spain
FR	France
IT	Italy
SI	Slovenia
MT	Malta
GR	Greece
BG	Bulgaria
CY	Cyprus

Central EU	
IE	Ireland
BE	Belgium
LU	Luxemburg
NL	Nederland
DE	Germany
PL	Poland
SK	Slovakia
HU	Hungary
RO	Romania

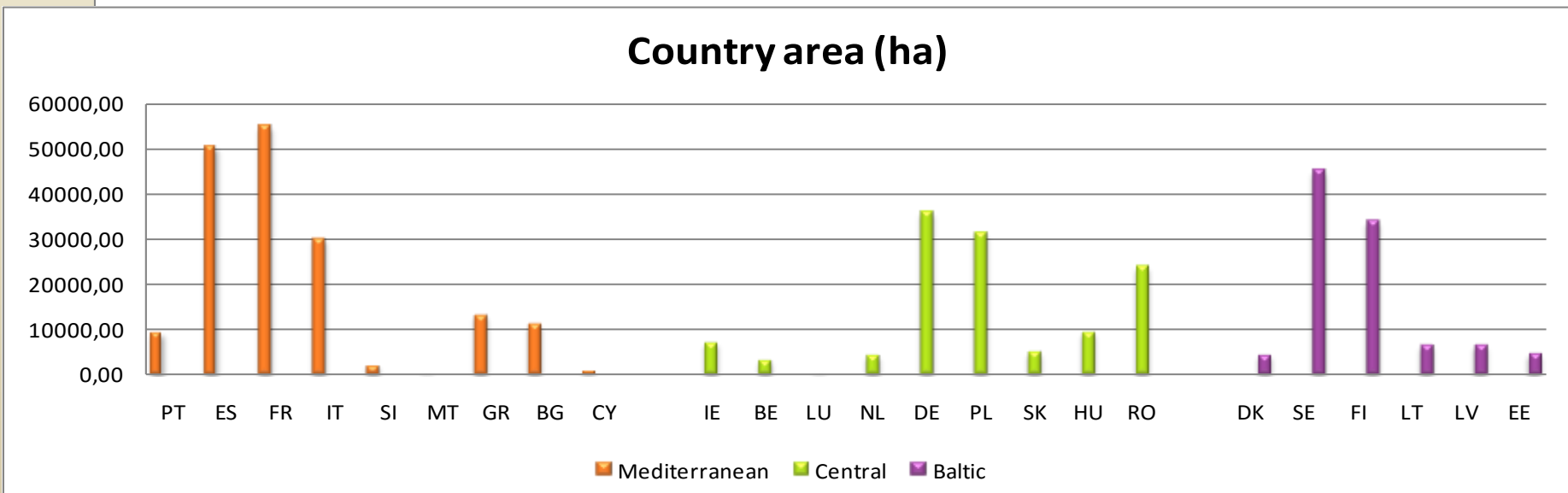
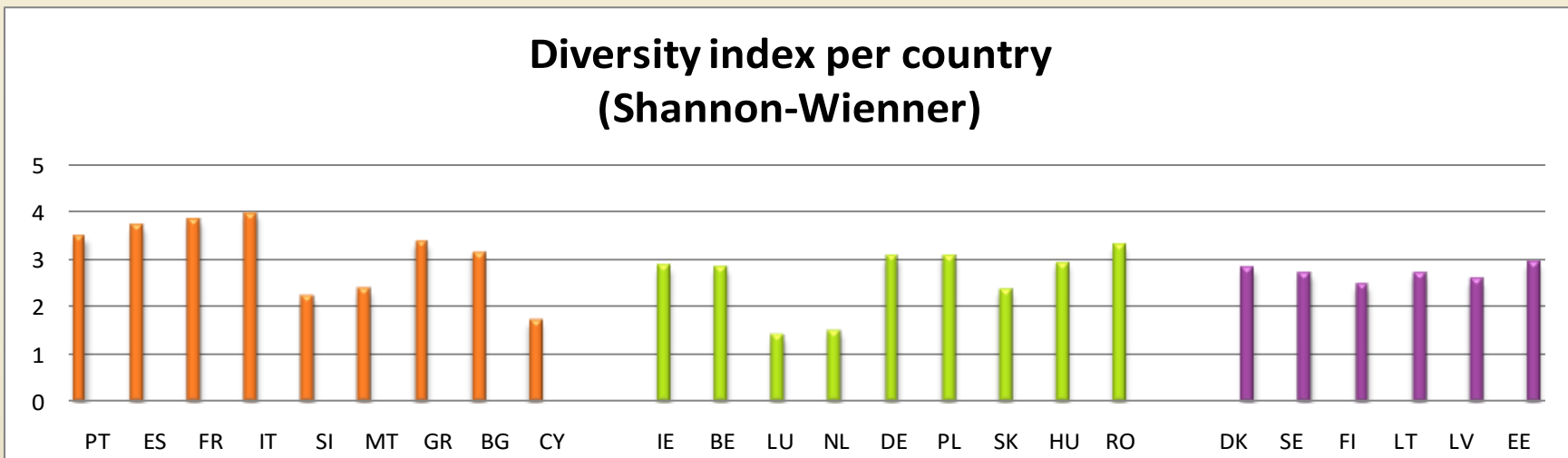
Baltic EU	
DK	Denmark
SE	Sweden
FI	Finland
LT	Lithuania
LV	Latvia
EE	Estonia



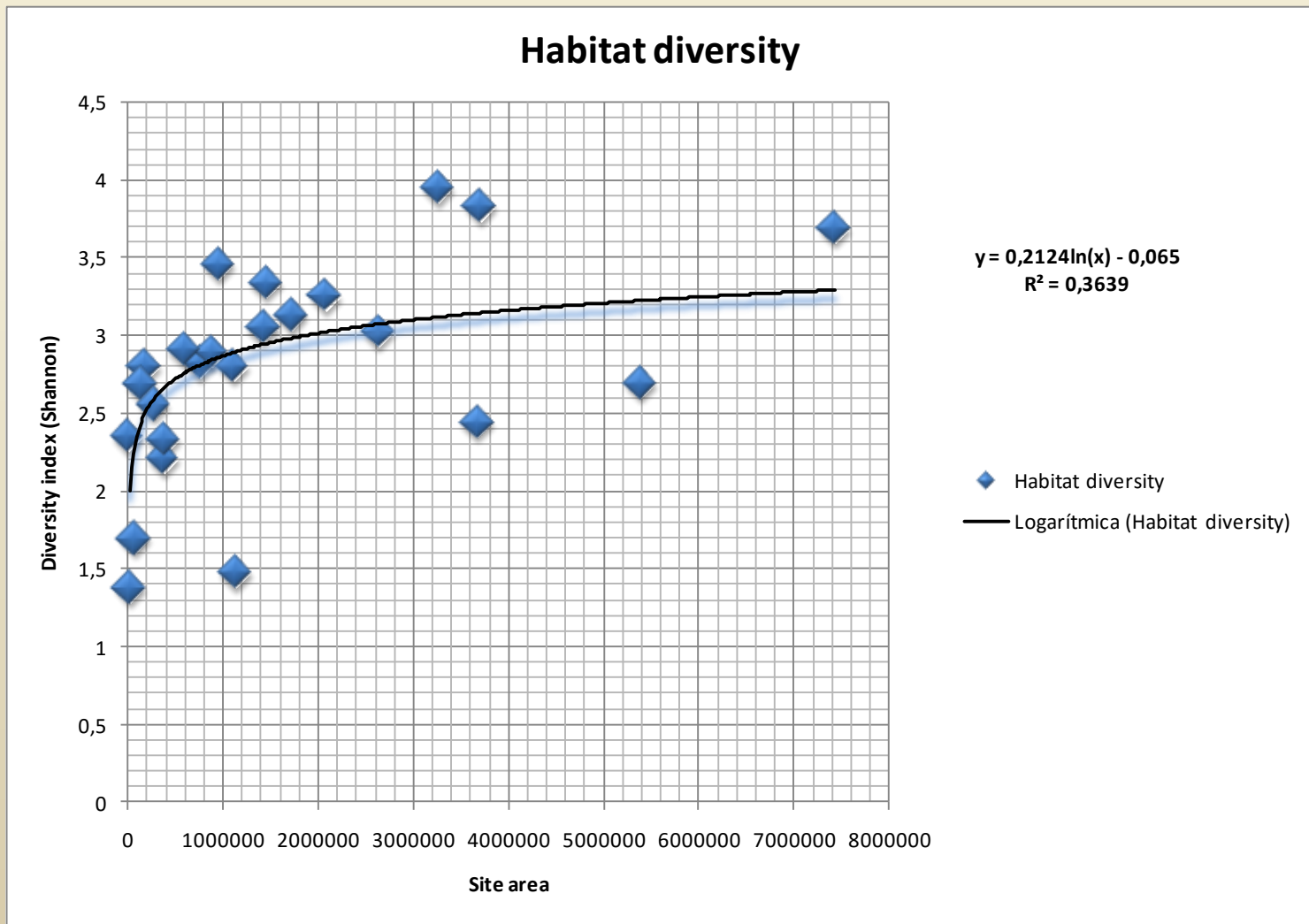
Habitat Richness per country



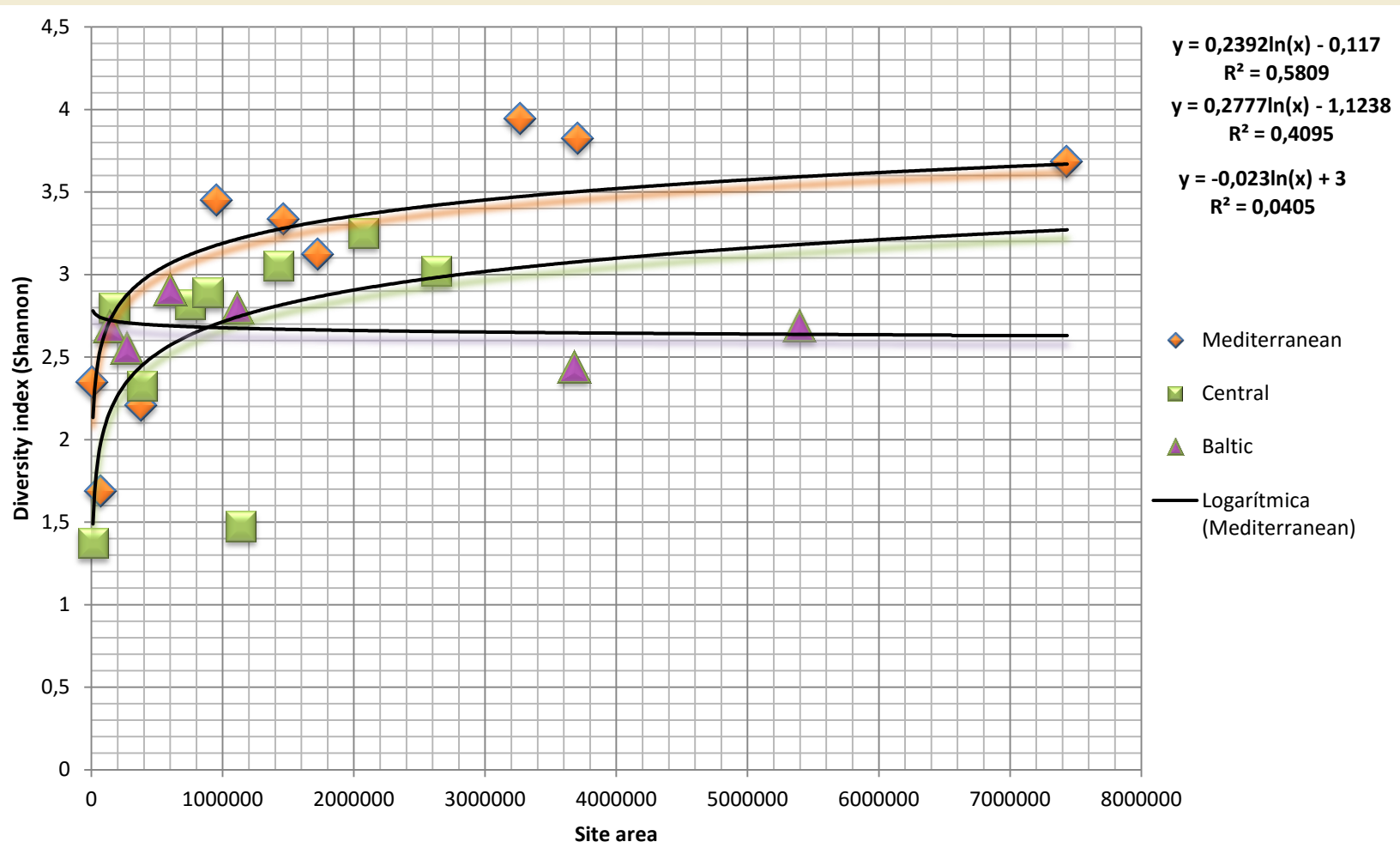
Habitat Diversity per country



Relation between diversity index and site area



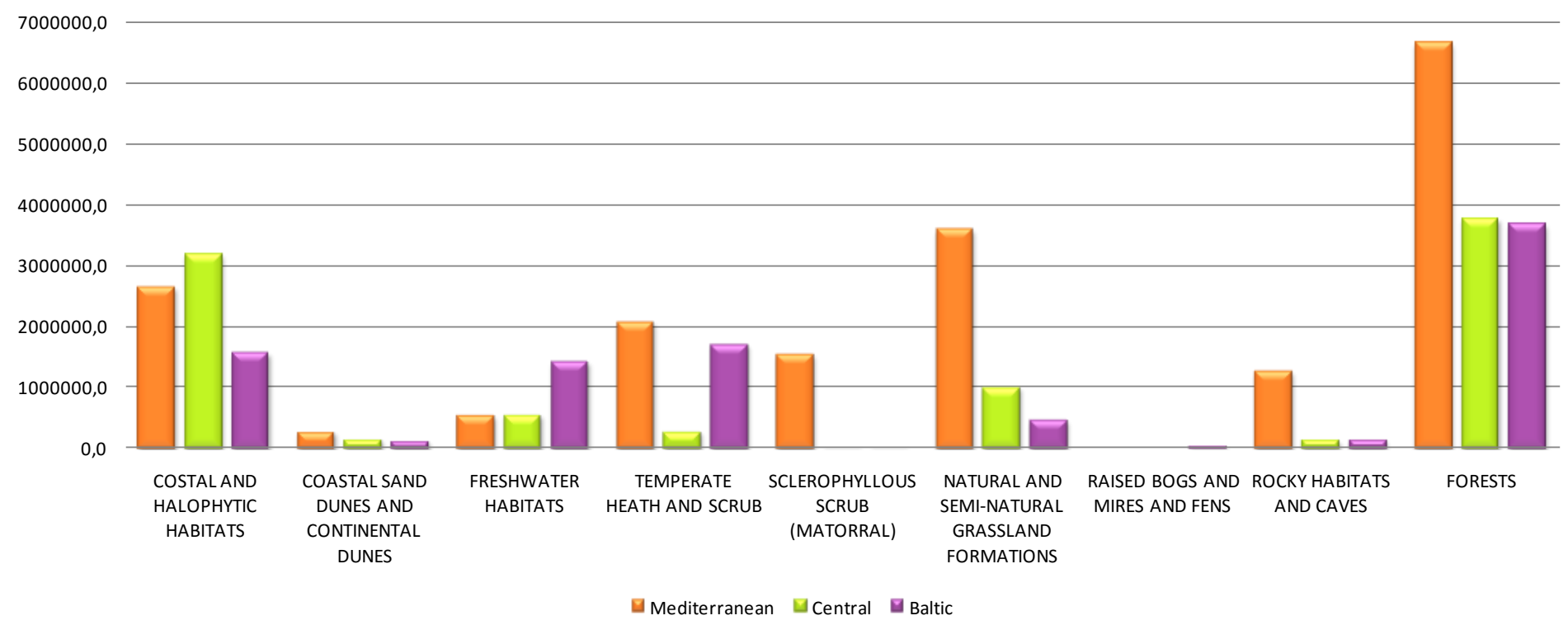
Relation between diversity index and site area



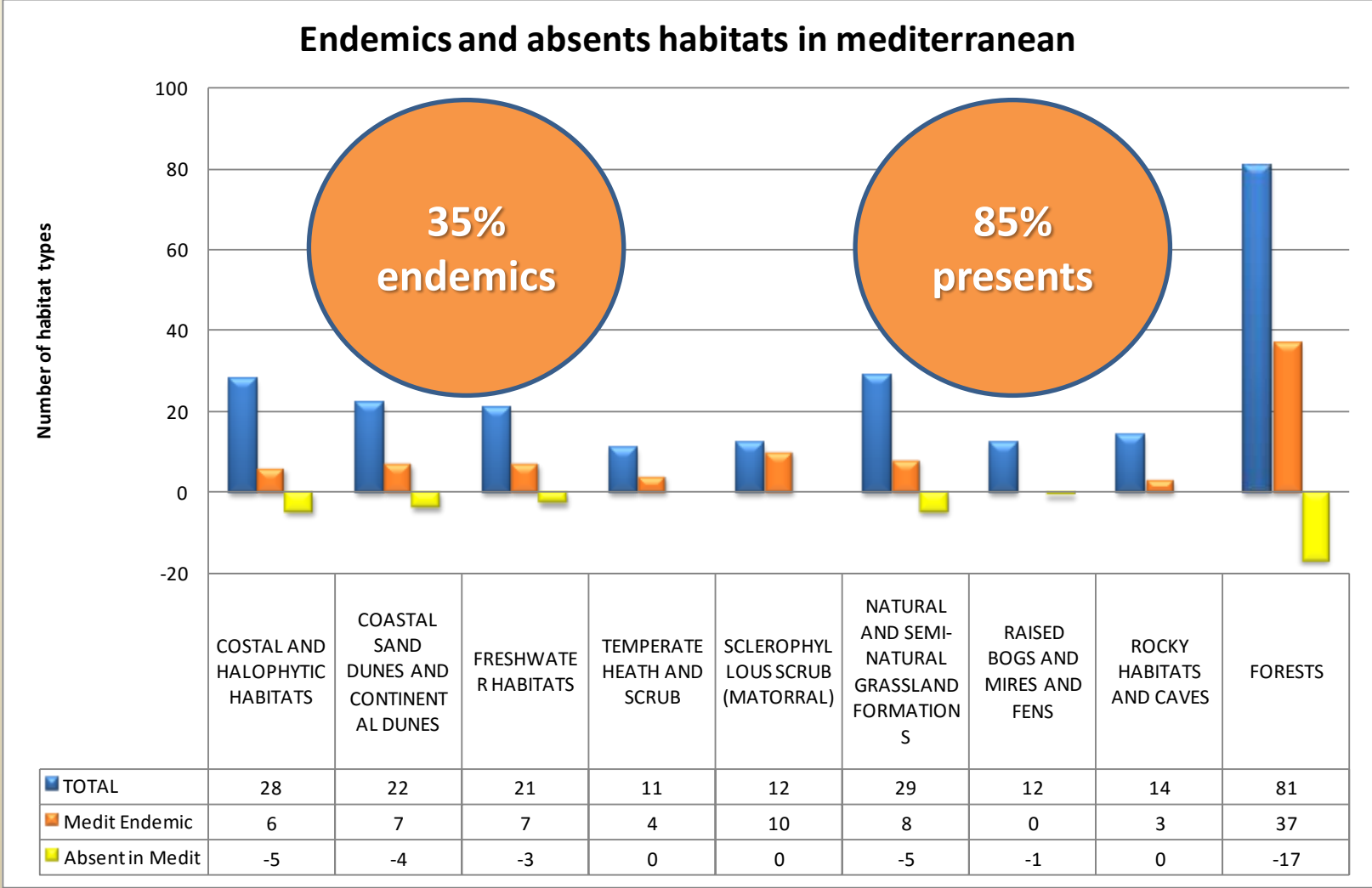
Habitat distribution



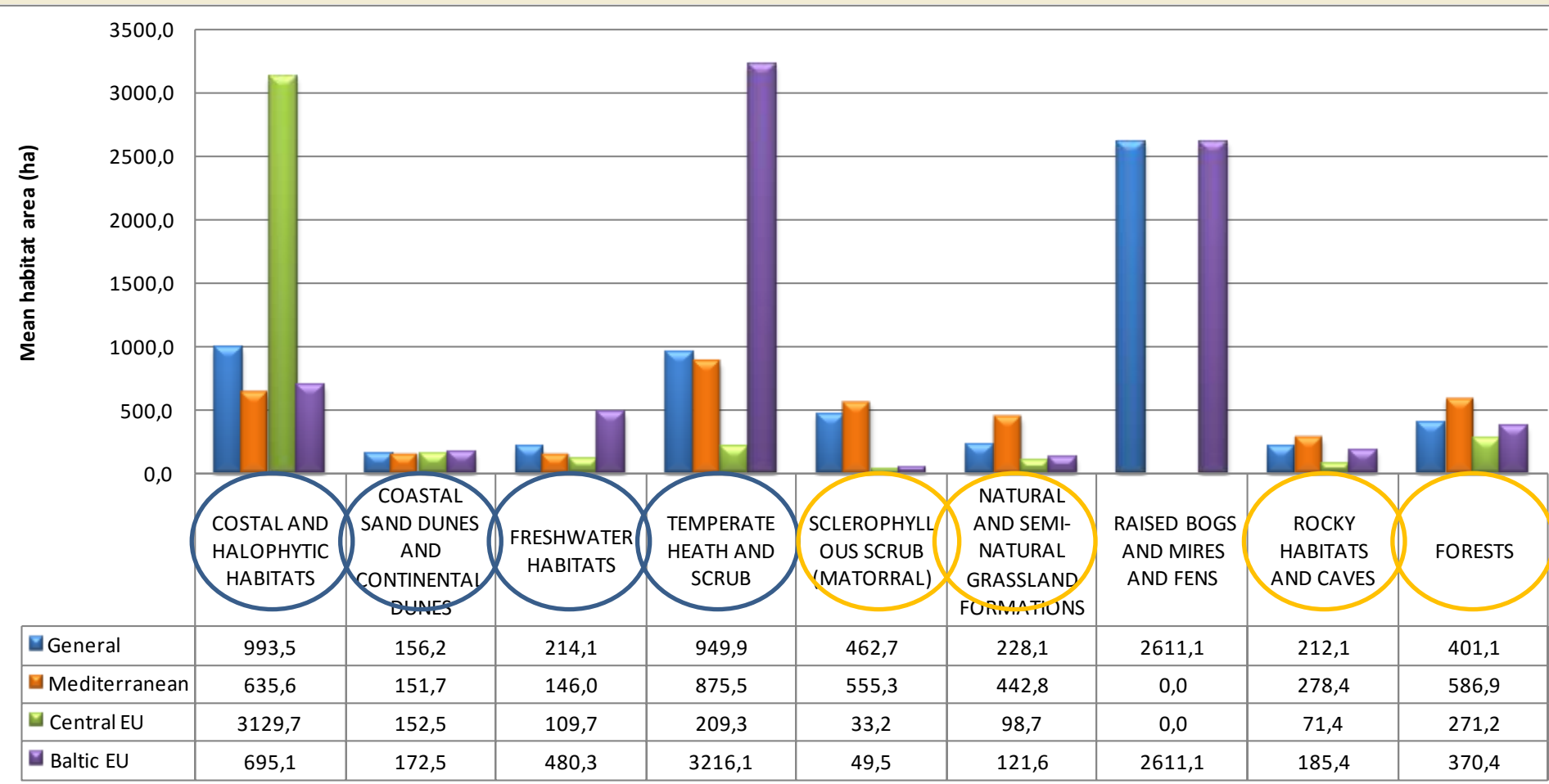
Type habitat area



Mediterranean endemics and absents habitats



Mean habitat area per site



Conclusions

- Protected habitats in Mediterranean countries have distinct spatial features
- Higher fragmentation is detected for coastal, freshwater, bogs and temperate habitats
- ...whereas matorral, grasslands, forests and rocky habitats show the opposite behavior in Mediterranean



Conclusions

- Higher habitat diversity in Mediterranean countries
- The relation between habitat diversity and site area is higher in Mediterranean countries than in central Europe or Baltic countries
- 35% of the habitat types of Natura 2000 are entirely endemic from Mediterranean countries
- 85% of all the natural habitat types protected in Europe are present in Mediterranean countries



So...

- The management of this habitats must considerer the differences identified between Mediterranean basin habitats and the other European regions;
- The differences identified are useful to the future of European nature conservation

Thank you!

