COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

30th meeting
Strasbourg, 6-9 December 2010
Palais de l'Europe, Room 5

LIST OF DECISIONS AND ADOPTED TEXTS

Memorandum of the Secretariat
established by
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage

CONTENTS

PART I – OPENING

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was amended and adopted.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DELEGATIONS AND FROM THE SECRETARIAT

The Committee took note of the information presented by the Chair and the Secretariat on the work carried out in 2010.

PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS

3. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION

3.1 Introductory reports: Georgia, Montenegro

The Committee welcomed the introductory reports by Georgia and by Montenegro.

3.2 Biennial reports 2007-2008 concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 and quadrennial reports 2005-2008

The Committee took note of the biennial reports submitted, and took note of the communications of the delegates from Serbia and Switzerland, whom informed that their national reports would be forwarded to the Secretariat by the end of the current year.

The Committee invited the Contracting Parties which have not yet fulfilled this obligation to do so as soon as possible, and thanked Contracting Parties who submitted General reports on a voluntary basis

PART III - INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

4. INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE 9.1 OF THE BERN CONVENTION

The Committee took note of the report on the Interpretation of Article 9 of the Bern Convention and thanked the consultant for the excellent work.

The Committee discussed the Draft Revised Resolution No. 2 (1993) on the scope of articles 8 and 9 of the Bern convention (Adopted by the Standing Committee 3 December 1993) and stressed the importance of updating and further clarifying the interpretation of article 9 of the Bern Convention. However, the Committee decided to report to next Standing Committee meeting the discussion and possible adoption of the Draft Revised Resolution No. 2 (1993) in view of ensuring the coherence of the interpretation of article 9 of the Bern Convention with other relevant instruments at European level. It therefore asked the European Commission to compare the proposed interpretation under the Bern Convention with the interpretation and reporting requirements under relevant EU instruments, and to forward its findings to the Bureau for analysis.

Taking into account the concern expressed by Switzerland and other Parties, the Committee further asked to the Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat and of the consultant, to review the proposed Draft Revised Resolution No. 2, in view of including in the final draft text other relevant recommendations formulated in the consultant’s report. In addition, the Bureau will examine proposals for improving the reporting system, including the possibility of using electronic reporting tools, similar to those provided for member states by the European Union.

Finally, the Committee decided to postpone to its next meeting the discussion and decision on the Draft revised model form for biennial reports, while taking note of a proposal for amendment made by the European Union regarding falconry.

PART IV –MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

5.1 Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change

The Committee thanked the authorities of Iceland for the excellent preparation of the meeting and the excellent hospitality, and took note of the report of the meeting of the Group of experts, including the proposals for the future work.

The Committee further took note of the Comments of the Bureau on behalf of the Standing Committee on Recommendation 1918 (2010) of the Parliamentary Assembly on Biodiversity and Climate Change, submitted by the Bureau to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The Committee amended and adopted the following three recommendations:

- Recommendation No. 145 (2010) on guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change in mountain regions;
- Recommendation No. 146 (2010) on guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change in European islands;
- Recommendation No. 147 (2010) on Guidance for Parties on wildland fires, biodiversity and climate change;

5.2 Group of Experts on Island Biodiversity in Europe

The Committee thanked the Norwegian conservation authorities and the Environment Office of the Governor of Svalbard for the excellent hospitality and most professional organisation of the meeting.

The Committee further took note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts, in particular on the progress towards preparing a Charter on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in European Islands, as well as of the proposals by the Group for its future work.

The Committee welcomed the establishment of an advisory group in partnership with IUCN ISSG and EPPO to provide support and advice on eradication of IAS in islands.

The Committee thanked the government of France for the invitation to host the next meeting of this Group of Experts in 2011 in Corsica.

5.3 Large Carnivores and Herbivores

The Committee took note of the report of workshop on « Large Carnivores in the Caucasus » and thanked Georgia and the International Bear Association (IBA), NACRES and IUCN Cats Specialist Group for their support in the organisation of the meeting.

The Committee amended and adopted the following Recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 148 (2010) on the conservation of large carnivores in the Caucasus.

The Committee took note of the information provided on the conservation action on the Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*).

The Committee took note of the information presented by the Large Herbivore Network and encouraged collaboration with the Convention.

5.4 Invasive Alien Species

The Committee took note of the report of the Workshop on Invasive Alien Plants jointly organised by EPPO and the Council of Europe. The Committee examined the Code of Conduct on Companion Animals and IAS and decided to ask the Group of Experts to review this text, harmonising as appropriate with the work under the CBD and taking into account the potential role of companion animals as a vector of pathogens and parasites, endorsing the code at its next meeting.

The Committee welcomed the offer from Norway to invite a consultant to present, at next Standing Committee meeting, the results of an on-going co-operation and information initiative on companion animals in Norway.

The Committee took note of the European Eradication Plan for the Ruddy Duck, presented by the Chair of the Group of Experts, congratulated the United Kingdom for the excellent work done and encouraged all Parties to eradicate Ruddy Ducks in their territories.

The Committee amended and adopted the following Recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 149 (2010) on the eradication of the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palaearctic.

5.5 European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity

The Committee took note of the report of the meeting of the Working Group on the Elaboration of a European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity.

The Committee discussed, amended and further endorsed the European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity, noting the reservation expressed by Germany toward principle 3 of the European Charter.

The Committee amended and adopted the following Recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 150 (2010) on the European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity.

5.6 Illegal killing of Birds

The Committee expressed its deep concern on the extent and negative trends of illegal killing of birds in the European continent, and took note of the information presented by the Secretariat on the preparation of a "European Conference on illegal killing of birds" to be held in July 2011. It welcomed the willingness of the European Union to be involved in the Conference and its proposal of eventually preparing an overview of the law enforcement mechanisms in EU member states.

The Committee further welcomed the proposal of cooperation from BirdLife Cyprus and BirdLife International to support the Bern Convention in the planning and organisation of the Conference, more particularly by preparing and presenting an updated survey on the illegal killing of birds which would cover, as far as possible, the 50 Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention, as well as a focused report on the issue in the Western Balkan countries, highlighting shortcomings in the implementation of international legislation and practice.

The Committee further noted the interest expressed by FACE to contribute to the success of the European Conference, as well as the suggestion of convening a reduced working group of the interested stakeholders for its preparation.

Finally, the Committee thanked Cyprus authorities for offering to host the Conference, encouraged the co-operation with the European Union and other concerned international governmental and non-governmental organisations, and encouraged Parties to attend the Conference and report on the situation in their countries.

5.7 Habitats

a. Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks: Report

The Committee took note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts.

b. Setting-up of the Emerald Network: strategic development and steps forward

The Committee took note of the report of the Group of Experts as well as of the activities proposed for 2011. It welcomed the preliminary outcomes of the CoE / EU Joint Programme for the setting-up of the Emerald Network in seven Central and Eastern European countries and South Caucasus, and congratulated the authorities of Morocco for the completion of the national Emerald pilot project.

The Committee further endorsed the proposed calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest 2011-2020, as well as the updated Map of biogeographical regions for the European continent, and agreed to establish the status of "official candidate sites" for proposed Emerald sites delivered to the Secretariat.

The Committee adopted the following documents:

- Criteria for assessing the National Lists of proposed Areas of Special Conservation Interest and the procedure for examining and approving Emerald candidate sites (Appendix 1 to this document);
- Information form for species and habitats to be integrated in the Bern Convention Annexes and Resolutions (Appendix 2 to this document);
- Revised Annex I of Resolution 4 (1996) of the Bern Convention (Appendix 3 to this document)

Furthermore, the Committee expressed its full support to the EEA with regards to the cooperation with the Council of Europe, as well as in its work towards EUNIS updates; it encouraged ETC/BD's commitment towards future updates of the EUNIS system in the light of the progress made within the Emerald Network. The Director of the ETC/BD, Mrs. Dominique Richard, ensured the Standing Committee of the strong commitment from EEA and ETC/BD towards making full use of progress achieved the Emerald Network process when updating the EUNIS classification system, as well as in other relevant aspects of their work.

c. European Diploma of Protected Areas

The Committee took note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists and welcomed the application from the Sumava National Partk (Czech Republic).

The Secretariat informed the Committee on the decision of the Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C) to refer back to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention the draft resolution concerning the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to Bile Karpaty Protected Landscape Area (Czech Republic) for further discussion following the request of the Czech authorities. Furthermore, the Secretariat informed the Committee than 17 other Resolutions for the renewal of the Diploma were adopted by the Committee of Ministers.

The Committee examined the proposed draft Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected areas to the Bile Karpaty Protected Landscape Area and decided to forward it to the Committee of Ministers for adoption.

Concerning the non-renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park (Belarus) and Bialowieza National Park (Poland) the Committee approved the proposal made by the Group to organise in 2011 a joint visit with UNESCO to analyse the content of the management plan of the Bialowieza National Park and the implementation of the plan for Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park.

PART V – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

6.1 Files opened

- **Ukraine: Building of a navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary (Danube delta)**

The Committee took note of the report of Ukrainian authorities as well as of comments from other Parties, noting that the national report has been submitted only on 1st December 2010 and calling for an improved and regular exchange of information with the Secretariat.

The Committee decided to keep the case file open.

The Committee agreed to the creation of a Select Group of Experts to facilitate dialogue on the issue. The Group will meet after relevant Parties and the Chair of the Standing Committee agree on the terms of reference.

- **Cyprus: Akamas Peninsula**

In the absence of delegate of Cyprus the Secretariat presented the Government report. The Committe took note of the observations and reports from the NGOs and decided to keep the file open, while asking Cyprus to present a report for its next meeting, as well as to send to the Secretariat as soon as possible the translation into English of the management plan for Limni as well as to fully implement its Recommendation No. 63 (1997). The Committee asked the Secretariat to follow-up the file in close co-operation with the European Union.

- **Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra – Via Pontica**

The Committee thanked the delegate of Bulgaria for presenting an updated report. It took note of the information provided by the Delegate of the European Union, as well as by the representatives of BirdLife and AEWA.

The Committee decided to keep the case file open and continue to follow it up in close co-operation with the European Commission, taking into account the three infringement procedures opened.

- **France: Habitats for the survival of the Common Hamster (Cricetus cricetus) in Alsace (France)**

The Committee took note of the information presented by the delegate of France, the representatives of NGOs and the representative of the European Commission.

In light of the small size of the hamster population, as well as of the current management, the Committee decided to keep the case file open and continue to follow it up in close co-operation with the European Commission.

- **Italy: Eradication and trade of the American Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)**

The Committee took note of the information presented by the delegate of Italy; it welcomed the information concerning a LIFE+ project which has been launched in September 2010 to provide effective tools for implementing actions aimed at the eradication of the American Grey Squirrel in the country.

However, noting that the decree concerning the banning of the trade and keeping of the American grey squirrel is not approved yet, the Committee decided to keep the file open and asked Italy to inform the Committee and the Bureau of progress made in the implementation of the LIFE+ Project and the adoption of appropriate legislative tools.

6.2 Possible files

- **France: Protection of the European Green Toad (*Bufo viridis*) in Alsace**

The Committee took note of the information presented by the delegate of France and by the representatives of the Association *Sauvegarde Faune Sauvage and Societas Europaea Herpetologica*.

The Committee decided to keep the file as a possible case file as the procedure for drawing up the National Action Plan is not completed. It asked the French authorities to report at the next Bureau meeting.

- **Sweden: Natterjack (*Bufo calamita*) population on the coastal island of Smögen**

The Committee took note of the information presented by the Swedish delegate, namely confirming that the decision of the government on the appeal is still pending, and that the plan of a residential housing project is halted in the meantime. The Committee decided to keep the complaint as a possible file, and asked the delegation of Sweden to inform the Secretariat as soon as the decision on the appeal will be available. It agreed to review the possible case-file at the next Standing Committee meeting.

- **Italy: Wind farm threat to wildlife in Alta Maremma, Grosseto**

The Committee welcomed the report of Italian authorities informing that the project of the wind farms in Roccalbegna has been rejected as it didn't receive the necessary authorisations. In the light of this information, the Committee decided to close the possible file.

6.3 On-the-spot appraisal

- **France: Impacts on the Hermann tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*) of: (1) a waste management plant in Cabasse; and (2) a housing project in Ramatuelle (Var)**

The Committee was informed of the results of the visit carried out on 15-16 June.

It thanked the French authorities for the organisation of the visit as well as the expert Mr Guy Berthoud for his report.

It welcomed the efforts made by the French authorities.

The Committee decided not to open a file. It adopted the following Recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 151 (2010) on protection of the Hermann tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*) in the Massif des Maures and Plaine des Maures localities (Var) in France

6.4 Complaints in stand-by

- **France: Black Grouse (Tetrao tetrix) in Dröme and Isère**

The Committee took note of the information presented by the delegate of France and by the representative of ASPAS (*Association pour la Protection des Animaux Sauvages*) and found no ground for pursuing this complaint.

It invited French authorities to report every 2 years, on a temporarily basis, on the situation of the species.

- **Morocco: Ecological impacts of a tourism centre in Saidïa**

The Committee took note of the information presented by the delegate of Morocco and by the Secretariat about the cooperation with the Ramsar Convention on this issue.

It instructed the Bureau to analyse the report of the consultative visit organised from 12 to 16 October 2010 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention and take appropriate decision on this issue.

6.5 Follow-up of previous recommendations from previous meetings:

- **Recommendation No. 66 (1998) on the conservation status of some nesting beaches for marine turtles in Turkey**
- **Recommendation No. 98 (2002) on the project to build a motorway through the Kresna Gorge (Bulgaria)**
- **Recommendation No. 113 (2004) on military antenna in the Sovereign Base Area of Akrotiri (Cyprus)**
- **Recommendation No. 137 (2008) on population level management of large carnivore populations**

The Committee took note of the information presented on the four recommendations above, welcomed the comments made, and informed that these will be reflected in the meeting report.

- **Recommendation No. 144 (2009) of the Standing Committee, on the wind park in Smøla (Norway) and other wind farm developments in Norway**

The Committee welcomed the reporting from Norway on the Recommendation No. 144 (2009) on the wind park in Smøla (Norway) and other wind farm developments in Norway, as well as the proposal from the Norwegian delegate to present the findings of the related on-going research project at next year Standing Committee meeting, once the project will be finalised. The Committee thus decided to review Recommendation No. 144 (2009) at next Standing Committee meeting.

- **Recommendation No. 110 (2004) on minimising adverse effects of above-ground electricity transmission facilities (power lines) on birds**

The Committee discussed the implementation of Recommendation No. 110 (2004) on minimising adverse effects of above-ground electricity transmission facilities (power lines) on birds, and the report prepared by BirdLife International for the Council of Europe, noting that electrocution on powerlines continuous to be one of the main causes for severe losses in population, and that a number of countries have issued or is in the process of finalising their technical standards of suitable and proven mitigation methods (for existing power poles) and of new power pole configurations which are safe for birds by design.

The Committee reiterated the need to develop and implement, or reinforce, as appropriate the work aimed at improving technical standards, and to adopt mitigation measures and encouraged the dissemination of technical and ornithological research related to bird safety.

The Committee welcomed the proposal from the delegate of Germany to disseminate and present at next Standing Committee meeting the national guidance document including examples of best practices.

The Committee finally asked the Bureau to analyse the recommendations included in the updated NGO report, particularly with regards to the proposal of introducing a temporarily reporting requirement on a 2-years follow-up basis on progress made towards the effective implementation of Recommendation 110 (2004).

PART VI – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

7. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

7.1 European Conference on "Post-2010 vision and targets: The role of Protected Areas and Ecological Networks"

The Spanish delegate presented the main outcomes of the Conference. The Committee took note of the information and welcomed the co-operation between the Spanish Presidency of the European Union and the Swiss Presidency of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers.

7.2 Implementation of CBD COP-10 decisions: re-enforcing the role of the Convention in implementing 2020 Biodiversity targets in Europe

The Committee welcomed the ongoing co-operation with the CBD and the information provided by the Secretariat and the Vice-Chair on COP-10 of CBD.

The Committee took note of the willing expressed by the European Union to collaborate with the Secretariat and the Bureau in reinforcing the role of the Bern Convention in the implementation of the CBD Cop 10 decisions in Europe.

The Committee instructed the Bureau to examine carefully the CBD Strategic Plan for the post-2010 period in view of possibly setting European Targets for 2020 regarding some issues of special concern for the Convention. The Bureau is invited to propose activities that may help implement the CBD in the territory of the Convention, thus contributing to play a regional role in its implementation of CBD.

7.3 Presentation of the Council of Europe Declaration: "Working together for Biodiversity: protection of natural areas and the fight against climate change"

The Committee took note of the Declaration "Working together for Biodiversity", welcomed the offer by the delegate of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to support the Declaration during the forthcoming presidency of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, and praised the common work by the different bodies of the Council of Europe in the field of biodiversity, protected areas and climate change.

7.4 Draft Programme of Activities for 2010

The Committee examined, amended and adopted the Programme of Activities for 2011.

7.5 States to be invited as observers to the 31st meeting

The Committee decided unanimously to invite the following States to attend its 31st meeting: the Russian Federation, San Marino, Algeria, Belarus, Cape Verde, Holy See, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

PART VII- OTHER ITEMS

8. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 31TH MEETING

The Secretariat will make a proposal (29 November – 2 December 2011, in Strasbourg).

10. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Convention on the Conservation

of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 145 (2010) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 9 December 2010, on guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change in mountain regions

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and its natural habitats;

Recognising that climate change affects biological diversity in the territory covered by the Convention, including species, habitats and the Areas of Special Conservation Interest of the Emerald Network;

Recognising the need to adapt conservation work to the challenges of climate change so as to minimise its impacts on the species and natural habitats protected under the Convention;

Bearing in mind that uncertainties surrounding the precise nature of future climate change and its impacts on biodiversity should not delay practical conservation action;

Noting that the biodiversity of mountain regions in Europe is particularly vulnerable to climate change as many species, particularly those in the upper parts of mountains are going to experience important reductions in their distribution area as the climate warms up;

Noting that biodiversity of European mountain systems is to be more affected than other mountain ranges of the world as migration of species Northwards following temperature increase will not be possible because of their West-East orientation;

Noting that many European mountain ranges have a high degree of habitat fragmentation and can be considered "evolutionarily isolated ecosystem", which increases the vulnerability of their biodiversity to climate change;

Recalling CBD COP 10 Decision X/33 on Biodiversity and climate change;

Recalling Recommendations No. 135 (2008) and No. 143 (2009) of the Standing Committee, on addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity;

Welcoming and bearing in mind the report "*Impacts of climate change on Mountain Biodiversity in* Europe' by Ms Eva Spehn [doc. T-PVS/Inf (2010) 8];

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites Observer States to:

1. Address and communicate the impacts of climate change on mountain biological diversity and its conservation,
2. Carry out specific national and European research or, as appropriate, reinforce existing research on the mountain areas habitat types and species that will be most affected by climate change, monitoring their change and co-operating as appropriate with neighboring states in shared mountain ranges; Promote sharing of information on research carried out in different countain ranges of Europe,
3. Develop specific climate change adaptation policies and action for mountain biodiversity, taking due account of the proposed guidance set out in the Appendix to the present recommendation;

4. Where appropriate, implement the proposed actions of the guidance in appendix to this recommendation

Further recommends Contracting Parties of the Convention on the Protection of the Alps and Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Management of the Carpathians and invites their observer States to help implement this recommendation in their respective frameworks.

APPENDIX

Guidance

This guidance draws on the expert report commissioned by the Council of Europe and discussed by the Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change at its meeting in 2010.

Measures that may be considered as appropriate for addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, for the purposes of the application of the Convention, are listed for consideration by Contracting Parties. These measures are offered as examples of action that may be taken by authorities at all levels of governance to address this issue. Other complementary measures may be identified by governments as equally appropriate to their particular circumstances and concerns. Notwithstanding these adaptation measures, there is an urgent need for climate change mitigation actions at local, regional, country and global levels. Effective mitigation is crucial to contain climate change to levels within which we may have a reasonable chance of achieving effective adaptation. Although these recommendation focus on the adaptation to climate change, it is important to bear in mind that, on the one hand, climate change mitigation activities may be harmful to biodiversity and, on the other hand, the conservation and restoration of certain ecosystem types in particular forests and wetlands have to play an important role in the overall mitigation effort.

The effects of climate change on mountain ecosystems and their biological communities are complex. The impacts of a changing climate on the species and habitats protected by the Bern Convention may differ widely, depending on the species and the interactions with other species and/or their habitats, as well as according to location. The effects that climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, taken in other sectors, can have on species and habitats should also be considered in order to avoid negative impacts.

Mountains and climate change

Changes in the environmental factors of European mountains caused by climate change are already visible. There is a decrease in mountain glacier area, an increased annual precipitation with changing seasonality in the Alps, less predictability of rainfall and temperatures in Mediterranean mountains and a marked migration of species “uphill” as mean temperatures rise.

Mountain forest plants have been found to climb between 25 and 93 meter per decade since the 1950’s and a number of other groups (carabids, fungi, birds, molluscs and spiders) have also shown a marked variation along an altitudinal gradient.

Mountain ecosystems are also naturally vulnerable because of their relatively smaller extension, the risk of erosion and the extreme conditions of many mountain habitats.

Mountains exhibit the most pronounced climatic gradients and, in evolutionary and biographical terms, they can be compared to islands, archipelagos of high elevation habitats, isolated by the lowlands. As such isolated ecosystems they host a very high proportion of endemic species that are at great risk of extinction because of the unprecedented speed of present climate change and the West-East orientation Europe’s mountain ranges, which hinders North-bound migration possible in other mountain ecosystems of the world (for instance in the Americas). Particularly threatened will be species confined to summits or the plains, late successional plant species, species with small restricted population and species with relative low mobility, as some amphibians. Other species (in mix-altitudinal ranges) are also likely to see their habitats reduced as they are displaced uphill, thus becoming more vulnerable to extinction.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

Improve Protected Areas in mountains: Re-evaluate management goals of protected areas, ensure continued protection and appropriate management of existing protected areas. Increase the effective size of the protected area where and when possible (e.g., enlarged core protection zone and

buffer zone with nature-friendly land use) and/or create new protected areas. Protect altitudinal gradients avoiding further fragmentation. Cooperate to develop common approaches with adjacent or nearby protected areas.

Connect: The safeguard of latitudinal and altitudinal ecological continuums will be a crucial element in adaptation to changing conditions for many species and populations, mainly in areas of actual or potential tree line and in urbanised areas in the Alps. However, improving ecological connectivity also facilitates the dispersal of disease and invasive alien species along corridors. More research is needed on how ecological connectivity improves biodiversity and ecological persistence.

Permeable landscapes: Enhance existing incentive schemes promoting lower intensity land management and the development of greater landscape heterogeneity. Retain as many patches of "semi-natural habitats", especially in urbanised or intensively used areas.

Reduce anthropogenic stresses: minimize localised human-cased disturbances (e.g. fragmentation, nitrogen addition or other pollution) that hinder the ability of species or ecosystems to withstand climatic events. It can also mean to keep traditional land use in regions where this has been the predominant management, in order to preserve species diversity and sensitive ecosystems.

Protect key ecosystem features: manage to maintain structural characteristics, organisms or areas that support the overall system, such as keystone organisms. Protect variant forms of a species or ecosystem so that, as climate changes, there may be populations that survive and provide a source for recovery. Maintain or establish more than one example of each ecosystem or population within a management systems, such that if one area is affected by disturbance, replicates in another area may reduce risk of extinction and provide a source for recolonisation. Sustain the slow variables (e.g., soil resources and the species' pool) that accumulate slowly and provide buffers. Sustain both ecological legacies (e.g., old forest growth, woody debris) and cultural legacies (e.g. people's connection to land).

Restoration: restore ecosystems that have been lost or degraded. Restore or facilitate recovery of missing keystone species (e.g., wolf, beaver).

Identify refugia: use areas that are less affected by climate change than other areas as sources for recovery or as destinations for climate sensitive migrants and maximise populations of rare and threatened species.

Relocation: relocate where appropriate and necessary organisms from one location to another in order to bypass a barrier (e.g. urban area). This may involve translocation of genotypes, species or soil invertebrates or microbes, if appropriate, captive breeding programs and ex-situ conservation programmes of the genetic diversity of threatened mountain plants.

Build communication and scientist-manager-public partnerships: Create interdisciplinary teams of economists, climatologists, land use experts and modellers with the mission to carry out integrative research combining conservation planning climate change, adaptive capacities, human livelihoods that may offer further guidance.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Convention on the Conservation

of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 146 (2010) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 9 December 2010, on guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change in European islands

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and its natural habitats;

Recognising that climate change affects biological diversity in the territory covered by the Convention, including species, habitats and the Areas of Special Conservation Interest of the Emerald Network;

Recognising the need to adapt conservation work to the challenges of climate change so as to minimise its impacts on the species and natural habitats protected under the Convention;

Bearing in mind that uncertainties surrounding the precise nature of future climate change and its impacts on biodiversity should not delay practical conservation action;

Recalling CBD COP 10 Decision X/33 on Biodiversity and climate change;

Recalling the "*Message from Reunion Island*" issued at the conference "The European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to Counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss" (July 2008) and the exceptional importance of the biodiversity of the EU's Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions and their vulnerability to climate change;

Recalling Recommendation No. 99 (2003) of the Standing Committee on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species;

Recalling Recommendation No. 91 (2002) of the Standing Committee on Invasive Alien Species that threaten biological diversity in Islands and geographically and evolutionary isolated ecosystems;

Recalling Recommendations No. 135 (2008) and No. 143 (2009) of the Standing Committee, on addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity;

Noting that European islands are home to many species and habitats of conservation concern, that they contain a large number of endemic species (particularly in the Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions), many of which are listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention as strictly protected species;

Noting that often, due to their geographical characteristics, many islands biodiversity is already vulnerable because of their limited space in islands and the high concentration of human activities affecting natural ecosystems, particularly in their costs;

Noting also that island biodiversity, because of its endemicity , the reduced possibilities in increasing habitat connectivity and the reduced distribution area of many species, is particularly vulnerable to climate change and the risk of spread of invasive alien species;

Noting that, following the report of the Group of Experts on European Islands Biological Diversity [*document T-PVS (2009) 13*], the geographic scope of this recommendation is restricted to islands in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, the Baltic Sea, the Arctic and East Atlantic (from Iceland to Ascension Island);

Welcoming and bearing in mind the report "*Climate change and the biodiversity of European islands*' by Ms Cordula Epple [*document T-PVS/Inf (2010) 9*];

Recommends relevant Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites relevant Observer States to:

1. Address and communicate the impacts of climate change on island biological diversity and its conservation including coastal and marine biodiversity in the waters surrounding islands;
2. Carry out inventories and specific national and European research on island biodiversity that will be most affected by climate change, monitoring their change, identifying in particular species that may go extinct in the next decades, and propose solutions for the conservation of their genetic diversity;
3. Carry out a special effort to create more reserves in and around islands, in particular coastal and marine reserves, ensuring their functionality and better integrating biodiversity concerns in development, water and tourism policies;
4. Develop specific climate change adaptation policies and action for island biodiversity, taking due account of the proposed guidance set out in the Appendix to the present recommendation.
5. Where appropriate, implement the proposed actions of the guidance in appendix to this recommendation.

APPENDIX

Guidance

This guidance draws on the expert report commissioned by the Council of Europe and discussed by the Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change at its meeting in 2010.

Measures that may be considered as appropriate for addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, for the purposes of the application of the Convention, are listed for consideration by Contracting Parties. These measures are offered as examples of action that may be taken by authorities at all levels of governance to address this issue. Other complementary measures may be identified by governments as equally appropriate to their particular circumstances and concerns. Notwithstanding these adaptation measures, there is an urgent need for climate change mitigation actions at local, regional, country and global levels. Effective mitigation is crucial to contain climate change to levels within which we may have a reasonable chance of achieving effective adaptation. Although these recommendation focus on the adaptation to climate change, it is important to bear in mind that, on the one hand, climate change mitigation activities may be harmful to biodiversity and, on the other hand, the conservation and restoration of certain ecosystem types in particular forests and wetlands have to play an important role in the overall mitigation effort.

The effects of climate change on island biodiversity are complex. The impacts of a changing climate on the species and habitats protected by the Bern Convention may differ widely, depending on the species and the interactions with other species and/or their habitats, as well as according to location and, especially latitude. The effects that climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, taken in other sectors, can have on species and habitats should also be considered in order to avoid negative impacts.

Islands and climate change

Islands are more vulnerable than other territories as in many of them there has been an intensive human occupation and because some of them are small so that developments that would be environmentally feasible in the continent have greater impact on natural ecosystems. Pollution is often a problem in islands, linked with relatively high human density, and often not much water. Management of waste can be a challenge due to scarcity of land. The absence of long rivers in small islands has often lead in Mediterranean and Macaronesian islands to water scarcity, intensive use of ground water and sometimes saline intrusions. Invasive alien species have a strongest impact on island endemics than in flora and fauna elsewhere. This marked environmental fragility of island ecosystems is likely to be worsened by climate change.

European islands are home to many species and habitats of conservation concern, including endemic as well as threatened biodiversity. Endemism is largely concentrated on islands in the Mediterranean and Macaronesian region. There are significant knowledge gaps concerning current and potential future impacts of climate change on European island biodiversity. However, there is enough evidence to demonstrate that impacts already take place and are likely to increase in future. Processes related to climate change which are particularly relevant in the island context include sea level rise and the possibility of increasing incidence of invasive alien species. Available measures to support adaptation for biodiversity are similar to those recommended for other areas However, possibilities to enhance connectivity beyond the individual island are limited so that a greater attention has to be paid to island unique ecosystems and their conservation.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Applying general policy on climate change adaptation to islands

Fully implement previous Bern Convention recommendations relevant to the conservation of island biodiversity under climate change which have already been approved by the Standing Committee and should be applied in the island context as a matter of urgency.

These include:

- Bern Convention Recommendation 135 (2008) on addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, and in particular the points of guidance on taking an integrated approach to climate change response activities, addressing non-climatic threats to vulnerable species, taking early action on the protection of island-endemic amphibian and reptile species, maintaining and restoring large intact habitats as well as ecosystem structure and function, establishing networks of interconnected protected areas, increasing protected area coverage where necessary to ensure that vulnerable species groups and habitats are included, establishing buffer zones around conservation areas, avoiding development in coastal areas, considering the role of species translocation and ex situ conservation, ensuring policy integration, using adaptive management and addressing invasive species issues.
- Bern Convention Recommendation 143 (2009) on further guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change, and in particular the points of guidance on minimising threats to vulnerable invertebrates and plants, including in Atlantic and Mediterranean islands, implementing appropriate protected area management to increase resilience and considering mechanisms for implementation of off-protected areas management.
- Bern Convention Recommendation 91 (2002) on invasive species that threaten biological diversity on islands and evolutionary isolated ecosystem which ask for special mechanisms to prohibit intentional introduction of alien species and special precautionary measures to avoid their unintentional introduction.
- The European Strategy on Invasive Species endorsed in Recommendation No. 99 (2003) which requests Contracting Parties to draw up and implement national strategies on invasive alien species taking into account that guidance.

2. Islands of special concern

- When developing adaptation measures, special consideration should be given to islands of the Mediteranean and Macaronesian regions because of their high rates of endemism and expected serious changes in precipitation regimes, and within these regions particularly to those sites hosting vulnerable or threatened endemic taxa, or unique habitat types; mountain habitats in both regions are under a double threat of being small, be particularly isolated and often, contain unique ecosystems or species that can migrate nowhere (like the high Canarian mountain) .

- Identify islands in other regions may also contain highly sensitive biota which require attention, as exemplified by the observed drastic declines in seabird populations of the North East Atlantic region.

3. Ensuring preservation of species that may lose their climate space

Because many island species have no or little possibility to migrate or extend their geographical range to other territories, and taking into account the high level of endemism on certain islands, special consideration should be given to the question of ex situ conservation and translocation for those species which are threatened with extinction in their current habitat, and unlikely to be able to reach other suitable habitat by natural dispersal. Although both ex situ and translocation measures are very resource-intensive strategies and not always feasible in practice, and translocation also carries a significant amount of risk to biota in the target area, where such options exist they may be the only way to ensure the survival of certain taxa.

4. Developing special financial and regulatory mechanisms for island biodiversity

Because islands gather, together with mountains, a very high proportion of Europe's endemic flora and fauna (see for instance that Appendix I of the Bern Convention had to be split in two parts, the second exclusively with Macaronesian flora) a special and solidarity effort has to be carried out at the European level to provide support to research and conservation in high diversity islands. Islands should receive the appropriate means to be able to cope with the responsibility of conserving such a rich common European heritage.

5. Island biodiversity research needs

In addition to research needs already identified in previous reports (including improving the information base on the vulnerability of Bern Convention species and habitats, and strengthening monitoring schemes) and by other Expert Groups (including the identification of knowledge gaps in European island threatened biodiversity and on invasive alien species on European islands), the following specific research needs should be addressed:

- improving knowledge about island endemic species in less well researched groups,
- monitoring climate change impacts on island biota (including impacts on migratory species),
- further development of appropriate approaches to assess the vulnerability of rare and endemic species to climate change, including trait-based assessment frameworks,
- improving climate projections at a resolution which is appropriate for consideration of climate change effects on islands,
- improving knowledge on species that depend both on islands and the marine environment to see how their survival m ay be affected by climate change.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Convention on the Conservation

of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 147 (2010) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 9 December 2010, on guidance for Parties on wildland fires, biodiversity and climate change

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and its natural habitats;

Recognising that climate change affects biological diversity in the territory covered by the Convention, including species, habitats and the Areas of Special Conservation Interest of the Emerald Network;

Recognising the need to adapt conservation work to the challenges of climate change so as to minimise its impacts on the species and natural habitats protected under the Convention;

Bearing in mind that uncertainties surrounding the precise nature of future climate change and its impacts on biodiversity should not delay practical conservation action;

Recognising that fire is a major factor in shaping vegetation and that it may trigger important permanent ecosystem change in a context of climate change;

Aware that both many natural and seminatural habitats and forest plantations may be more prone to burn if rainfall decreases and temperatures rise with climate change in some parts of Europe;

Conscious that nature conservation and forestry policies need to take into account and be adapted to changing patterns of fire that will accompany climate change;

Recalling CBD COP 10 Decision X/33 on Biodiversity and climate change;

Recalling Recommendations No. 135 (2008) and No. 143 (2009) of the Standing Committee, on addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity;

Welcoming and bearing in mind the report "*Climate change, wildland fires and biodiversity*" by Mr Jose Manuel Moreno [doc T-PVS/Inf (2010) 10];

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites Observer States to:

1. Assess how fire may affect biological diversity in a context of climate change, particularly in fire-prone areas; identity which areas may increase their risk of fire in different climate change scenarios and take precautionary measures; identify, in particular, areas that may be at risk of desertification in Europe by a combination of higher temperatures, repetitive fire and erosion;
2. Assess the changes required in land use and land management policies, including forestry, to make forests and other ecosystems more resilient to fires in a context of climate change;
3. Consider the role of fire in the implementation of Bern Convention guidance on biodiversity and climate change.
4. Where appropriate, implement the proposed actions of the guidance in appendix to this recommendation.

APPENDIX

GUIDANCE

This guidance draws on the expert report commissioned by the Council of Europe and discussed by the Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change at its meeting in 2010.

Measures that may be considered as appropriate for addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, for the purposes of the application of the Convention, are listed for consideration by Contracting Parties. These measures are offered as examples of action that may be taken by authorities at all levels of governance to address this issue. Other complementary measures may be identified by governments as equally appropriate to their particular circumstances and concerns. Notwithstanding these adaptation measures, there is an urgent need for climate change mitigation actions at local, regional, country and global levels. Effective mitigation is crucial to contain climate change to levels within which we may have a reasonable chance of achieving effective adaptation. Although these recommendation focus on the adaptation to climate change, it is important to bear in mind that, on the one hand, climate change mitigation activities may be harmful to biodiversity and, on the other hand, the conservation and restoration of certain ecosystem types in particular forests and wetlands have to play an important role in the overall mitigation effort.

The effects of wildland fires on ecosystems and their biological communities are complex. The impacts of a changing climate on the species and habitats protected by the Bern Convention may differ widely, depending on the species and the interactions with other species and/or their habitats, as well as according to location. The effects that climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, taken in other sectors, can have on species and habitats should also be considered in order to avoid negative impacts.

Wildland fires, biological diversity and climate change

Fire has a complex impact on ecosystems. It helps shape vegetation and it can be a major factor of plant communities change in a climate change context. Mediterranean ecosystems have evolved in a world with fire, so numerous plant traits can be associated to a long evolution with fire.

Fires do not burn the landscape at random, and tend to affect certain vegetation types more often than others, and occur at certain locations. Fires burn through natural protected areas as well. During the last three years, of all the area burned in the largest EU Mediterranean countries nearly 1/3 was part of the Natura 2000 network. Areas close to or at intermediate distance to roads or towns are the ones that burn most frequently. These elements of fire risk are important for conservation areas.

Although many ecosystems of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean can be considered to have evolved under fire, the current fire regime is different from what it might have been in the past. Changes in fire regime, such as increased frequency and severity of fires, threatens ecosystem stability and, in some areas, favours degradation loops that impedes the recovery of the vegetation towards more mature stages.

Postfire regeneration usually follows the autosuccessional pattern. Plants are able to withstand fires mainly by surviving the blaze and resprouting or by germinating from seeds that survive the fire as well and, in many instances, require heat-related stimuli to germinate. In a few years after fire the plant community resembles that before the burn. However, direct regeneration is not always warranted, especially if the climatic on soil conditions have changed. Furthermore, there are many emblematic species that do not regenerate well after fire.

It is not excluded that, with climate change, parts of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean become more arid and that many areas of Central and Northern Europe where fire does not affect at present large surfaces may see more frequent fires as temperatures rise and rainfall patterns change.

Difficult as it is to project future impacts of climate and other global changes on the vegetation and species composition of any system in the first type, much more difficult it is to do so in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean areas. Restoration has no easy models to use them as a reference, and many ideas need to be revisited at the light of new paleo-ecological evidence. Given the threats of

changes in fire and other climate and global changes over the values at hand, not the least its distinct and rich biodiversity, the challenge of conserving these territories under the ongoing climate and land-use/land cover changes and other global changes is paramount.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1 Include the role of fire in conservation of species and habitats in fire prone areas

Fires have been occurring, and will most certainly occur within many protected areas in southern Europe and in the landscape matrix that surrounds them. Fires are generally considered as a threat, and fire suppression is the dominant policy throughout SEM. There are enormous skills and capacities to fight fires. Yet, when they break out inside or around protected areas they will burn through them. But since the main/only policy is to fight them, provisions to understand how they directly or indirectly affect protected areas and species once burned are, for the most part, lacking. Until now, the ecological role of fire is ignored. Consequently, when they occur there is no contingency plan as to how the affected system will be impacted. Therefore, even without any climate change, biodiversity conservation plans need to consider how fires will affect species and habitats throughout the territory. Fire ecology is a must in all management and conservation plans, and strategies to incorporate this knowledge must be enacted.

2. Identify the role of natural fire or prescribed burning in conservation

Some ecosystems and species depend on fire or can benefit from it. Identifying them might be critical since current policies will jeopardize their persistence. In these cases, plans for introducing fire, either by prescribed burning, or, when appropriate, with wild fires within acceptable conditions to avoid other risks must be made. Because the prevailing view is that fires are undesired, and the risks that entail managing fires is great, conservation plans in need of fire must be implemented with great care to avoid accidents that would stop the continuation of needed plans with the concourse of fire.

3. When drawing up conservation plans aimed at specific target species, consider how fire will affect them

Species or groups of species are impacted by fire differently, depending of fire characteristics and other factors. In the case of protected areas whose objective is one or a group of particular species, the viability of their conservation in a context of fire needs to be specifically considered. Management plans that address the possible impacts of fire need to be species or group specific, since different species are likely to respond differently to fire.

4. Assess the vulnerability of the protected areas network to fire

Corridors and stepping stones are important elements for insuring population persistence and species migration, more so in view of the impending threats. These elements, however, may be subject to fire. When these components are formed by forest, fire can alter their functioning capacity for long. Since it is very likely that some of these more isolated elements are in areas with greater human influence, their susceptibility to fire and repeated fire might be rather great and needs to be quantified since its long-term persistence may be severely threatened. As with the rest of the protected areas, the impact of fire needs to be known in advance in order to better evaluate their capacity to continue playing their role. Robust network designs, capable of not succumbing to a single fire, are needed to allow these places continue playing their vital service.

5. Ensure, where urban developments and roads are near protected areas, that measures are taken to extreme fire vigilance

Most fires are lit by people. Towns and roads are the main sources of ignitions. However, the probability of burning is still high at some intermediate distance to roads and towns since fire can travel long distances. Protected areas within these domains are at higher risk of fire than those further away. Urban developments into the wildlands and near protected areas can be a threat to these due to increase ignition probability and subsequent fire. Also, the network of roads crossing protected areas, in addition to other perils, can clearly add risk. These two elements must be cautiously considered when declaring protected spaces and be particularly monitored during the time of high fire risk.

Eventually, specific restrictions might have to be put in place to minimize risks. Risk mapping of protected spaces taking into consideration proximity to roads and towns is critically needed.

6. Identify synergies/conflicts between fire and conservation

Fire fighting includes, among other, fire break lines or fire-break areas. These can provide open space and hence favour species persistence different to those in the preserved matrix, particularly when these are forest. The role of such areas and corridors as sources of rapid colonization after fire needs to be appraised. These areas can serve as colonization points but there are positive or negative elements (increasing potential for invasive species) that need to be fully considered. The advantages and disadvantages of these areas in the event of fire need to be taken into consideration.

7. Assess changes in the landscape matrix through fire

Abandonment will continue in response to changes in socioeconomics and with climate change. Abandonment modifies the landscape matrix towards homogenization and that can threatened the persistence of many species. Fires can open up space and introduce large changes in the landscape matrix. Not all organisms will be equally affected but such changes in the landscape structure. Some, through the openings made by fire, will be favoured. Others will be negatively affected. Conservation plans must therefore contemplate the landscape scale changes that are introduced by fire.

8. Assess future risks

Changes in fire frequency, intensity/severity, size and season must be specifically contemplated for conservation areas under scenarios of climate and land-use/land cover change. This must be done for current areas with fires and for those in which fires were not present but that are likely to occur due to the changes in climatic conditions and other factors. Each of the parameters that define the fire regime can differentially affect the various species. Changes in fire season, particularly when migrant species are concerned, need to be cautiously considered. Consequently, the impact of each of them needs to be assessed in general or for the particular species or group of species that are of interest.

9. Assess how drought and other stresses may increase fire risks when drawing management plans for biodiversity

Conservation scenarios that include fire must take into consideration the level of stress being endured by the various species since, little by little, they will inhabit areas that are more stressful for them due to changes in climate among other stressors. The capacity of particular species or groups to respond to fire under such circumstances and to changes in fire regime needs to be appraised. As fires might occur under extreme conditions not seen until now (drought being the most relevant) this type of interactions need to be fully taken into consideration in future management plans for biodiversity conservation. Additional stresses due to more frequent and intense heat waves, particularly in the open habitats of the first years of regeneration after fire, must also be known.

10. Include worst case scenarios in conservation plans

Although the great majority of fires are of small size, some of then can attain very large sizes, in the order of thousands of hectares. In Spain, the maximum size of any fire recorded is around 30.000 ha, and the maximum length is 45 km (Moreno et al. 1998). The potential for one fire to spread over a whole protected area at once is not negligible. Smaller and homogeneous areas in a matrix of high fire risk are the most threatened. The prospect of increasing fire size under future conditions further adds to this. Consequently, worst case scenarios that include burning a large portion or even the whole protected area when these do not exceed several thousands of hectares needs to be contemplated. The role of buffer zones in this context needs to be equally appraised.

11. Examine how fires may bring opportunities to accommodate species to the new climate

Fires, by opening new space, and by having reduced competition among organisms in the early phases can open new space for species to move upwards or northwards in search of suitable climate. But this can also be used for invaders. Differentiating the new colonizers that are now attuned to the new conditions from those invading is important. Identifying the potential for fire to act as stepping stones must also be considered.

12. Identify species at greater risk

Species of late successional stages, thus requiring longer time to colonize burned areas, are probably the ones at greater risk in scenarios of increased fire frequency. Moister sites should regenerate quicker than more xeric sites, but their rate of recovery will be delayed with the onset of reduced precipitations under future climate for large parts of SEM. Consequently, their recovery period will be extended and the probability of burning again in earlier stages of regeneration indicates that species proper of mature successional stages might suffer. Studies should emphasize determining which groups of species enter at which state of the postfire succession and on the time needed for their recovery.

13. Identify which species may never recover after fire

Among those species most likely to suffer from fire are those of reduced distribution that are linked to particular systems that are fire sensitive. That is, those that do not regenerate after fire. A fire, particularly a large one, can severe these populations for long, making its recovery difficult. Identification of bottle-necks and deadly-traps among organisms and their systems in the event of fire is critical for those species that may be most threatened.

14. Promote research in the ecological links between species that may suffer a mismatch by the combination of fire and climate change

Climate change is producing mismatches among species (in pollination, in dispersal). Furthermore, fire con contribute to alter them. Identifying mismatches that are enhanced by the combination of fire and climate change might be of relevance for the maintenance of species that may already be in danger.

15. Examine risk of fire in possible changes in the protected area network

With climate change, the size of the protected areas will have to be increased to achieve the same conservation objectives. Until now, fire has not been taken into consideration in the design of the network of protected areas. Yet, its effectiveness can vary. Consequently, future modifications must consider how fire would affect its effectiveness. Since it is likely that the protected areas of the current network are those in a better state of conservation, which, presumably, are those further away from human influence, it is likely that new additions will be closer to human habitations, thence with higher risk of fire. Risk of fire must be included at the time of modifying the network of protected areas.

16. Improve awareness on the ecological role of fire

Fire is commonly seen as something negative, but it can play a dual role in the conservation of biodiversity. Fire, for the most part, hardly receives any attention in education, even in university programs, or not as much as its relevance demands. Every effort must be done to form and inform the general public and students at all levels about the role of fire in ecosystems and biodiversity conservation.

17. Promote research in how wildland fires affect biodiversity in a context of climate change

Knowledge on how fire affects the various groups of organisms across gradients is still a must. Long term observation sites, where the main groups of are studied jointly should be established.

Large fires, particularly large fires episodes, are laboratories that should be explored in depth for their role on biodiversity. Since many of these fires occur along gradients, these are opportunities that should not go by unexplored.

Maps with fire history are now possible for the last decades. These offer opportunities to study the impact of repeated fires on biodiversity across groups and across landscapes.

Protected areas are not static and will change with climate change. Modelling their fate and their vulnerability under scenarios of climate and fire change are crucial to understanding their future role in biodiversity conservation.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Convention on the Conservation

of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 148 (2010) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 9 December 2010, on the conservation of large carnivores in the Caucasus

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and its natural habitats;

Wishing to promote co-existence of viable populations of large carnivores with sustained development of rural areas in appropriate regions;

Noting the great interest of the Caucasus region for large carnivores;

Aware that the drafting and implementation of Action Plans may be a useful tool to redress the situation;

Recalling its following Recommendations:

Recommendation No. 115 (2005) on the conservation and management of transboundary populations of large carnivores,

Recommendation No. 137 (2008) on population level management of large carnivores poulation;

Recommends that Contracting Parties to the Convention in the Caucasus region:

1. Monitor populations of large carnivores and their prey in the region, co-operating and sharing information relating to the conservation and management of shared populations of large carnivores,
2. Elaborate national action plans for all large carnivores species present in their territories, giving priority to those more threatened at the national level (ie. Armenia: lynx and bear; Azerbaijan: leopard and striped hyena; Georgia: lynx and bear; Turkey: leopard and bear),
3. Draft and implement jointly an action plan for leopard in the Caucasus,
4. Increase technical capacity in monitoring and conservation of large carnivores,
5. Launch, resources permitting, human-dimension, awareness, education and mediation programmes, aimed at knowing and improving attitudes of inhabitants and tourists to large carnivores. Develop appropriate concrete help measures for mitigation conflict with livestock farmers and hunters.
6. Fight poaching of protected large carnivores,
7. Integrate lynx conservation objectives into forestry management;

Invites Observer states to implement, where appropriate, the recommendation above.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Convention on the Conservation

of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 149 (2010) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 9 December 2010, on the eradication of the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palaearctic

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and its natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 11, paragraph *b*, of the Convention requires parties to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Convention requires Contracting Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Noting that the species *Oxyura leucocephala*, listed in Appendix II of the Convention, is endangered;

Recognising the efforts of Contracting Parties in preserving the populations of this species;

Noting, however, that the main threat to the long-term survival of the species is its hybridisation with American Ruddy Ducks *Oxyura jamaicensis* introduced in Europe;

Conscious of the need to arrest the expansion in Europe and Northern Africa of the Ruddy Duck;

Recalling Recommendation No. 48 of the Standing Committee, adopted on 26 January 1996, on the conservation of European globally threatened birds;

Recalling the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-headed Duck, prepared by BirdLife International, Wetlands International and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and adopted by CMS, AEWA and the European Union;

Recalling Recommendation No. 61 (1997) on the conservation of the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) which asked Contracting Parties to develop and implement without further delay national control programmes which could include the eradication of the Ruddy Duck from all the countries in the Western Palaearctic;

Recalling the Bern Convention Action plan for eradication of the Ruddy Duck (1999-2002) drafted by the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust [document T-PVS/Birds (99) 9];

Noting that the Bern Convention Action Plan for the eradication of the Ruddy Duck is an integral part of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-headed Duck;

Welcoming the very effective control carried out in the United Kingdom, in the framework of the LIFE project, to drastically reduce the number of Ruddy Ducks in its territory;

Welcoming also the commendable efforts to control the species in the wild in other contracting parties;

Regretting, however, that delayed or insufficient action in some states following the Bern Convention eradication plan, has allowed the establishment of populations in mainland Europe and thereby made eradication more costly and difficult;

Noting that very little action has been taken to address the issue of Ruddy Ducks in captive collections;

Referring to the document "*Eradication of the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palaearctic: a review of Progress and revised Action Plan 2011-2015*" by the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust [document T-PVS/Inf (2010) 21];

Conscious that, following present culling efforts, it is realistic to achieve a full eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the wild in the Western Palaearctic in the next five years;

Noting, however, that this commendable goal will only be reached if all states concerned collaborate in a common action plan for eradication of the species,

Noting that failure to act effectively and immediately will increase the threat to the White-headed Duck and increase the complexity and financial cost of eradication;

Recalling also Resolution 4.5 of AEWA, which, amongst others, strongly urges all countries with Ruddy Duck populations to establish or step up complementary eradication measures in order to prevent the spread of the species in Europe and towards its complete eradication in the AEWA area,

Recommend that:

All Contracting Parties:

1. Implement without delay the actions specified in the "Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the Western palaearctic, 2011-2015 enclosed as appendix to this recommendation;

Priority States:

2. Belgium urgently implement an eradication programme aimed at achieving the common target of eliminating annually at least 50 % of Ruddy Duck national population to achieve total eradication in its territory no later than 2015;
3. France intensify present efforts to eradicate Ruddy Duck and carry out an extensive public awareness campaign;
4. The Netherlands urgently implement the existing eradication programme, providing the resources needed for its completion; and as a matter of urgency establish the national co-ordination foreseen in the plan so as to facilitate its implementation, taking into account that delays will increase costs;
5. Spain continue its current policy to eradicate every single Ruddy Duck or hybrid detected in its territory;
6. United Kingdom continue present efforts to eradicate the remaining populations of Ruddy Duck and pursue them after the end of the very effective and positive LIFE project;

Other States:

7. Denmark, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland eliminate systematically all Ruddy Ducks appearing in their territories;
8. Morocco control systematically Ruddy Ducks and hybrids in its territory;
9. Tunisia monitor White-headed Duck and eliminate systematically Ruddy Ducks and hybrids in its territory;

Invites Algeria to monitor White-headed Duck and eliminate systematically Ruddy Ducks and hybrids in its territory.

APPENDIX

Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the Western Palaearctic, 2011-2015

Goal	*Ruddy Ducks [1] stop being a threat to the White-headed duck*
Target	*Long-term eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the western Palaearctic and establishment of measures to avoid new introductions of the species.*

I. Actions concerning eradication of Ruddy Ducks in the wild

General target	*Eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the wild in the western Palaearctic by 2015*
National targets	*Annual reduction of at least 50 % of the national wintering population*
Action 1	Remove legal barriers that may hinder the control of Ruddy Ducks
Action 2	Monitor the status and distribution of Ruddy Duck in the wild
Action 3	Eliminate Ruddy Ducks in the wild following the national target
Action 4	Establish, as necessary, national working groups to guide the implementation of this eradication strategy and appoint a national focal point for international co-ordination.

II. Actions concerning Ruddy Duck in captivity

Goal	*Avoid any new escape of Ruddy Ducks to the wild in the Western Palaearctic*
General target	*Phase out all captive populations of Ruddy Ducks, if possible by 2020*
Action 5	Prohibit the release of Ruddy Ducks from captivity
Action 6	Prohibit trade in Ruddy Ducks by 2013
Action 7	Monitor the status of Ruddy Ducks in captivity
Action 8	Encourage the sterilisation and/or elimination of Ruddy Ducks in captivity

III. Actions concerning public awareness, reporting and international co-ordination

Goal	*Improve understanding by the public of the problem*
Goal	*Follow the progress of the eradication plan and update it as necessary*
Action 9	Implement public awareness activities on the need to control Ruddy Ducks.
Action 10	Report annually to the Bern Convention on national action and collaborate with other states, the Bern Convention, AEWA and other appropriate bodies in the implementation of this eradication plan and the Action plan for the conservation of the White-headed Duck.

[1] In the framework of this action plan the term « Ruddy Ducks » refers both to Ruddy Ducks and to the hybrids of Ruddy Ducks and White-headed Ducks.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Convention on the Conservation

of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 150 (2010) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 9 December 2010, on the European Charter on Recreational fishing and Biodiversity

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Noting that integrated ecosystem management and habitat protection have great advantages for the preservation of biodiversity and should go hand in hand with species protection efforts;

Aware that the identification of processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (as stated in Article 7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD) are also of utmost importance for the preservation of threatened species;

Recalling Decision V/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD on the Ecosystem Approach, adopted in 2000, and including the 12 principles of the Ecosystem Approach;

Recalling the 2003 Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity, which includes the commitment to 'halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010', as adopted by Environment Ministers and Heads of delegation from 51 countries in the Pan-European region;

Recalling Decision VII/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD on Sustainable Use, adopted in 2004, and including the Addis Abeba Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity;

Recalling the 2010 Bern Declaration on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Europe: 2010 and beyond;

Recalling its Recommendation N°128(2007) on the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity;

Recognising that the 2010 biodiversity target has not been achieved;

Desirous to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe;

Having regard to the EIFAC (European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission) Code of practice for recreational fisheries, to the FAO Code of conduct for responsible fisheries and other relevant policy regarding fishing;

Acknowleging the complementarity of these different instruments;

Desirous to ensure that all forms of recreational fishing in Europe are practiced in a sustainable manner, avoiding negative impacts on biodiversity and making a positive contribution to the conservation of species and habitats;

Referring to the principles and guidelines included in the European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity (document T-PVS/Inf(2010)3 revised);

Considering this Charter as guidelines for competent national authorities and relevant stakeholders as appropriate;

RECOMMENDS Contracting Parties to the Convention, and INVITES Observer States and Organisations, to take into consideration the European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity and apply its principles in the elaboration and implementation of their policy on recreational fishing so as to ensure that recreational fishing is carried out in a sustainable way.

INVITES Contracting Parties to the Convention, Observers States and Organisations to take into consideration the Charter also in recreational fishing in coastal and maritime areas where appropriate.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Convention on the Conservation

of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 151 (2010) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 9 December 2010, on protection of the Hermann tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*) in the Massif des Maures and Plaine des Maures localities (Var) in France

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Having regard to Resolution (78) 22 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on threatened amphibians and reptiles in Europe;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 26 (1991) on the conservation of some threatened reptiles in Europe, recommending that "*the French Government protect as a nature reserve the habitat of Testudo hermanni in the Massif and the Plaine des Maures, thus removing further threats from development*";

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the drafting and implementation of action plans for threatened wild fauna species;

Recalling its Guidelines of 1993 to be taken into account in recovery plans for species of amphibians and reptiles;

Recalling that Article 3 of the Convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take the necessary steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild flora, wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Referring to the other provisions of the Convention relating to protection of habitats and conservation of species;

Taking into consideration the report drawn up the expert after his on-the-spot appraisal [T-PVS/Files (2010) 25] ;

Recalling that the Plaine des Maures locality in the département of Var, France, comprises not only an exceptional site for the preservation of the Hermann tortoise, a strictly protected species listed in Appendix II to the Convention, but that the plain and the Massif des Maures also constitute, together with a small population in Spain, the last European retention site for continental populations of the species;

Considering that the transformation and destruction of the specific habitats constitute the most fundamental threat to which the species is exposed;

Considering that systematic account has been taken of the 13 points made in Recommendation No. 118;

Observing that in the meantime several schemes (urban build-up, clearance of vegetation for grape-growing, extension of refuse tips, etc.), which have been allowed to go ahead without proper control or co-ordination by the administrative authorities have irreversibly impaired wide expanses of vital habitats for the tortoises and numerous protected species;

Aware of the threats posed by the LGV (high-speed rail-link) project and the need to make advance preparations for the integration of new transport infrastructure in the limited area of the Plaine des Maures;

Having taken note of the publication of the Biotope Protection Order concerning the Saint-André-La Pardiguière area in March 2006;

Having taken note of the publication of the decree concerning the creation of a national nature reserve on the Plaine des Maures in June 2009;

Having taken note of the publication of the National Action Plan to protect the Hermann Tortoise in France in November 2009;

Stressing the need to take the additional measures warranted by the conservation requirements of the species and to adopt a more detailed and comprehensive approach to the problem,

Recommends that the French Government:

1. Rapidly appoint a team of managers with responsibility for both maintenance work and scientific activities. The team should also be capable of organising the monitoring of the habitats and populations of Hermann Tortoise throughout the entire range situated outside the reserve, as identified in the National Action Plan (PNA);

2. Continue to actively seek alternatives to the Balançan waste storage centre, which is to be closed in 2012. These alternatives should, insofar as possible, be situated outside the specific range identified or at all events not restrict the potential habitats of this species any further;

3. Conduct rigorous monitoring of the application of the reduction, compensation and accompanying measures that will be taken as part of the “Combes Jauffret” housing project, which is justified by overriding public interests of a social nature, and keep the Standing Committee informed;

4. Establish from the outset the conditions in which the high-speed rail link that is to cross the Plaine des Maures will be carried out, fixing in advance priority principles which will make it possible to take account of all natural habitats, restore ecological networks to their original state and protect tortoise populations;

5. Ensure the active implementation of the action plan by focusing on priorities corresponding to objectives 1 – 2 – 3 and 7, i.e. to take better account of the conservation requirements of the species, conserve a coherent network of favourable sites and populations, maintain and develop favourable habitats and base directives and conservation activities on scientific knowledge and appraisals. The aim is to rapidly have scientific references and ecosystem models which can serve as a basis for long-term management and as an example for other species and other sites.

Revised Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area (Czech Republic)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.*a* of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1 on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution ResDip(2000)13 on the award of the European Diploma to the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area (Czech Republic);

Taking into consideration the expert's report as presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists for the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 4 and 5 March 2010;

Having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention,

Renews until 20 June 2020 the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area;

Attaches the following two conditions to the renewal:

1. Keep at least the existing access to the Radejov hunting reserve for the visitors and decrease the population size of the non-indigenous game species - fallow deer, control the pressure exerted by game so that the forest may regenerate, draw up a hunting plan in conjunction with the administration of the protected area, and finally refrain from building any new facilities (eg hunting lodge);
2. Amend agri-environmental funding rules in accordance with the protected area´s management plan in order to secure financing of management needed to attain objectives set.

Attaches to the renewal the following five recommendations:

1. Reassess and guarantee the requisite financial and human resources to ensure implementation of the management plan;
2. Arrive at a concerted method of agricultural management that promotes the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area through close co-operation between the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment, the departments active in the field (agriculture, forestry and Bílé Karpaty departments) as well as the local authorities and other bodies involved;
3. Eliminate non-indigenous species, namely fallow deer, from the nature reserves and the other strictly protected areas and further develop consultation between the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment in order to control big game populations;
4. Continue the current forestry policy of conversion to hardwood stands and encourage the natural regeneration of existing hardwood forests;
5. The European Diploma should be more visibly associated with the image of the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area (for example, in the information centre, in publications and on the website).

Appendix 1

Criteria for assessing the National Lists of proposed Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs) at biogeographical level and procedure for examining and approving Emerald candidate sites

1. Background

The creation of the Emerald Network of areas of special conservation interest was agreed by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in 1989, through the adoption of Recommendation No.16 (1989) on the Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ACSI). The Recommendation advocates Contracting Parties to take, either by legislation or otherwise, steps to designate areas of special conservation interest to ensure that necessary and appropriate conservation measures are taken for each area situated within their territory or under their responsibility.

Article 4 of the Bern Convention is the most relevant article, as it states that Contracting Parties "shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats".

Nonetheless, the real implementation of the Emerald Network only started in 1998, through the adoption by the Standing Committee of Resolution No 3 (1996) concerning the setting up of a pan-European Ecological Network, and Resolution No 5(1998), concerning the rules for the Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (Emerald Network).

Resolution No. 3 (1996) encourages "Contracting Parties and observer states to designate ASCIs", thus inviting all the European Union states, European states which are not members of the European Union and some African states to join the Emerald Network. Participation in the Emerald Network is therefore optional, as Contracting Parties and Observers States benefit from the "soft law" approach characteristic of Council of Europe recommendations and resolutions. However, it is important to note that the obligations on the Contracting Parties to protect natural habitats are rigorous requirements clearly set out in the Convention and forming part of binding international law.

The European Union, as such, is a Contracting Party to the Bern Convention. Implementation of the Bern Convention by EU member states is achieved mainly through full compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives and the requirements of the Bern Convention with regard to habitats are met by designating sites for the Natura 2000 Network. According to Resolution No. 5 (1998) of the Bern Convention Standing Committee on rules applying to the network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest, "*for Contracting Parties which are Member States of the European Union, Emerald Network sites are those of the Natura 2000*". The provisions of the Birds and Habitats Directives are thus the only procedures that apply to these countries. As indicated both in the EU Habitats Directive and in the Bern Convention, the ultimate goal for the creation of such a sites network is the "long term survival and maintenance of a favourable conservation status of the species and habitats of European Interest".

In order to ensure a full complementarity and consistency between the EU Natura 2000 and the Emerald networks, the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks (GoEPAEN) recommended that any evaluation of the proposed Emerald sites should be based on the same rules and procedures as developed for Natura 2000, i.e using a biogeographic approach. At the same time, in full recognition of the resources and time needed to implement such a process, the GoEPAEN called for a simplified approach without loosing the essence of the evaluation.

In 2006, a first attempt was made to agree criteria for a simplified biogeographic approach to the evaluation of Emerald sites as described in document T-PVS/Emerald (2007) 03, on the basis of the criteria adopted by the Habitats Committee in 1997 (Hab. 97/2 rev. 4 18/11/97). Meanwhile, the EU accumulated experience within the different Biogeographical seminars and the procedure was gradually amended accordingly. The present paper aims at revising document T-PVS/Emerald (2007) 03, taking into account recent developments in the implementation of the Natura 2000 network and proposing a process to be applied in the preparation of the Pan-European list of ASCIs under the Bern

Convention. It is relevant to the implementation of phases II and III of the Emerald process as described in T-PVS/Emerald (2010)5.

Although the constitution of Emerald Network is still ongoing, three different stages or "Phases" of implementation can be identified:

Phase I: Participating countries assess their natural resources and identify species and habitats to be protected according to the relevant resolutions of the Bern Convention. They subsequently select potential sites which are suitable for ensuring the long-term survival of the "Emerald" species and habitats, and they send a database containing scientific information on the proposed sites to the Bern Convention's Secretariat.

Phase II: An evaluation of the efficiency of the proposed sites which has to be done on a species by species and habitat by habitat base. Ideally the evaluation would only start if a complete inventory of proposed sites exists for a certain area. Realistically, this would mean that over 80 % of the finally proposed sites would already be available for the evaluation. This exercise is to be conducted in cooperation with the European Environment Agency.

Once the scientific value of the proposed sites is assessed, the candidate sites will be submitted to the Standing Committee and will eventually be approved so to formally integrate the Emerald Network. For EU member states an approved Natura 2000 Network of sites will automatically fulfil the parties' obligations towards the Bern Convention and the Emerald Network.

Phase III: National designation of the adopted ASCI's and implementation of management, reporting and monitoring measures, under the responsibility of national authorities.

Sites proposed as Emerald sites by individual countries will be eligible to become ASCIs only if they contribute to the conservation of habitat types listed in Recommendation 4 and species listed in Recommendation 6 of the Bern Convention and endorsed by the Standing Committee of the Convention.

ASCI selection is guided by Recommendation 16, paragraph 1, which describes six general conditions; all ASCIs should fulfil at least one:

a) It contributes substantially to the survival of threatened species, endemic species, or any species listed in Appendices I and II of the convention;

b) It supports significant numbers of species in an area of high species diversity or supports important populations of one or more species;

c) It contains an important and/or representative sample of endangered habitat types;

d) It contains an outstanding example of a particular habitat type or a mosaic of different habitat types;

e) It represents an important area for one or more migratory species;

f) It otherwise contributes substantially to the achievement of the objectives of the convention;

Following the principles described in Annex III of the Habitats Directive for setting up Natura 2000 sites under that Directive, two distinct stages in the setting up of the Emerald network can be identified:

1) An evaluation of the sufficiency of proposed ASCIs species by species and habitat by habitat (equivalent to Annex III, stage 1 of the Habitats Directive); see section 2;

2) An evaluation of the proposed ASCIs site by site at the bio-geographical level (equivalent to Annex III, stage 2 of the Habitats Directive), followed by approval by the GoEPAEN and subsequently adoption at the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention; see section 3.

The Areas of Special Conservation Interest – like the Natura 2000 sites – are regarded as core areas for the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN). As such, they represent key components of the Pan-European Network. The introduction of a vast natural infrastructure, of the kind ultimately envisaged by the Pan-European Ecological Network, will make the areas identified for the Emerald Network even more important and will focus attention on their possible linkage with other protected

areas. The state of ecological connectivity of a concerned ASCI with other natural areas should be taken into account when assessing its compliances to the criteria of the Recommendation No. 16 (1989). A degree of policy convergence between the various networks concerned (PEEN, Natura 2000 and Emerald) should therefore be encouraged.

2. Evaluation of sufficiency of proposed ASCIs for species and habitats

2.1 Overall description of the procedure

The evaluation of Emerald databases at a national level should be viewed as a cycle consisting of the following steps:

(1) Submission of proposals in the form of a database by the National Authorities to the Bern Convention Secretariat, using the Common Data Repository of the European Environment Agency;

(2) Quality check of the database by the Council of Europe Secretariat, followed by correction of incompleteness and errors by parties;

(3) Nomination as official candidate sites by the Bern Convention Standing Committee

(4) Preliminary evaluation by EEA-ETC/BD of sufficiency of the proposed list of ASCIs (feature/ country/ bio-geographical region);

(5) Scientific discussion at the regional bio-geographical seminar and assessments of sufficiency,

(6) If necessary, proposal of additional Emerald Sites and updating the database by national authorities;

(7) Submission of revised database;

(8) Submission of the final sitelist to the GoEPAEN for discussion;

(9) Submission to the Bern Convention Standing Committee for adoption.

The construction of the Emerald databases at a national level should be viewed as a cycle consisting of the first seven steps of the overall procedure.

Evaluation of the Emerald network is viewed as an iterative process. Conclusions on the sufficiency of national ASCI proposals will result in the need for new proposed Emerald sites or extension of existing sites if the conclusions are found unsatisfactory. An increase in site numbers with time is expected due to improving scientific knowledge and changes in nature. In all cases, re-submitted ASCI proposals will be re-evaluated providing updated conclusions.

2.2 Emerald database submission, completeness and quality

Databases should be uploaded to the appropriate folder in the EEA data centre together with an official letter by national authorities noting the delivery of an official database. Second and subsequent deliveries should also include a description of the changes between versions.

Emerald databases should be prepared according to the instructions given in the Emerald Software User Manual (T-PVS/Emerald (2003) 2). Complete databases are essential and for the evaluation process including discussions at the bio-geographical seminars. All species of Resolution 6 and Habitats of Resolution 4 regularly present on a site should be listed and all relevant data-fields completed. Quantitative data on species populations and habitat cover areas at sites should be provided whenever possible. However, species which have been recorded occasionally but which are not regularly occurring (e.g. vagrants) should not be included. It is difficult to give a general rule on listing species for which only historical records exist, for many small, poorly known species, even old records may still be valid (*e.g.* for bryophytes or small molluscs such as *Vertigo* spp.) unless recent survey shows the species is no longer present or if the habitat has changed and is no longer suitable.

Before evaluation for network sufficiency, submitted databases and associated spatial data will be checked for completeness and quality. After country authorities have received an assessment of database quality, identified gaps and errors should be corrected as quickly as possible and the updated database should be uploaded again to the Common Data Repository of the EEA.

2.3 Preliminary evaluation

Preliminary evaluation of sufficiency of national ASCI proposals will be essentially a scientific preparation for the discussions at the bio-geographical seminar. It will be carried out by an independent scientific institution (EEA – ETC/BD). Preliminary evaluation will examine the latest submitted database by the party (but not later than 90 days before the planned bio-geographical seminar) and take into account relevant available scientific information.

Establishment of the Reference lists of species and habitats

Prior to evaluation, a preliminary Reference List of species and habitats of Bern Convention Resolution (1996) No 4 and Resolution (1998) No 6 regularly present in each country per bio-geographical region will be prepared based on current scientific information, in order to show for which features which country is obliged to designate ASCIs. The reference lists should not be considered as checklists of species and habitats occurring in the countries and respective regions, thus they should exclude vagrant or accidental species. An 'X' in the list will mean that countries have an obligation to designate sites for that species or a habitat in a particular bio-geographical region. A question mark (?) will indicate that the status of the species or habitat is not clear and additional research is needed to clarify it's status.

Evaluation of sufficiency

The contribution towards favourable conservation status for a given species or habitat type through the designation of a given list of ASCIs will not only depend on the intrinsic quality of those sites, but also on the intensity of the current or proposed conservation measures for each habitat or species including actions outside designated areas. The assessment must be based on the intrinsic value of the proposed sites for each species and habitat type, taking into account their potential contribution to the defined conservation goal, i.e. maintaining or restoring the species and habitats to Favourable Conservation Status".

It is clear that the factors relevant to the assessment of network sufficiency for each species and habitat type will vary greatly from case to case, depending on different factors. In general, there should be a proportionate response by the parties, so that for the rarest habitats and species of European interest there will be a high proportion of the resource included within the Emerald Network, while for those which are more abundant there will be a lower proportion of the resource within the Network.

It would not be realistic to try to establish one single quantitative criterion equally valid for all habitats and species in all situations. The expected assessment of site lists for the bio-geographical region must be based on a case-by-case (feature/country/biogeographical region) discussion, taking into account additional information on different parameters related to each species and habitat type.

Requirements to be met

Four requirements can be expected to be met by a representative list of sites to be considered as sufficient to enable a favourable conservation status for a given species or habitat type at bio-geographical level:

1) it should represent sites from the entire distribution range of every Emerald species and habitat at a national level and bio-geographical level if a party shares more than one region;

2) it should reflect the ecological variation of the habitat and of the species (genetic) within the bio-geographical region. In case of species, site proposals must include the whole range of habitats that are needed for the different stages of its life-cycle such as reproduction, migrations, foraging (etc.)

3) it should be well-adapted to the specific conservation needs, in particular to those related to the distribution patterns (endemicity, degree of isolation/fragmentation, historical trends, climate change) and to the human pressures, threats and vulnerability of the considered species or habitat type;

4) if the first 3 conditions are met it will be expected that site proposals will include significant proportions of habitat area and species populations within the Emerald network versus the overall national resource.

0Outcomes of the evaluation and Preparation of draft list of Emerald sites

A draft list of candidate ASCIs per biogeographical region within the region of concern at the seminar (West-Balkan, Caucasus, etc …) will be prepared using the data from the respective Emerald databases and according to the table structure shown in the Table 1. Parties will be requested to check information in these lists so to be ready for the final approval at the bio-geographical seminar.

Table 1. Contents of the "Draft List of Proposed Emerald Sites"

Column count	Description
A	ASCI code comprising nine characters, the first two being the ISO code for the Member State
B	ASCI name
C	Surface area of ASCI (ha)
D	Centroid coordinates of ASCI (latitude and longitude)
E	Number of species of Resolution 6 at the ASCI
F	Number of habitat types of Resolution 4 at the ASCI

The results of the preliminary evaluation will be: (1) draft Reference Lists for species and habitats; (2) draft Detailed Conclusions and (3) draft lists of proposed Emerald sites. These documents will form the basis of discussions at the bio-geographical seminar.

The evaluation of the Emerald site proposals will also include bird species using the same methodology as for other species, contrary to the Natura 2000 bio-geographical seminars which only consider species covered by the Habitats Directive.

More detailed guidelines for site selection and proposal evaluation for certain taxonomic groups (e.g., birds, fish) or environments (e.g., marine) may have to be further developed when parties involved in the Emerald phase II gain more experience.

2.4 Regional Bio-geographical seminar

Regional bio-geographical seminars will be organised involving all parties represented in a region (e.g. West-Balkan, South Caucasus, etc), provided that they all have submitted Emerald databases of sufficient quality to enable evaluation of sufficiency as described above. The seminars will discuss (1) reference lists; (2) the sufficiency of each species and habitat, according to the agreed reference lists and (3) suitability of sites for inclusion in the final list of ASCIs.

Each seminar will include participants from the Bern Convention Secretariat, the ETC/BD, the Bern Convention parties, independent experts chosen by the Council of Europe and the ETC/BD, an agreed number of representatives of relevant NGOs and observers from the neighbouring countries.

The seminar will be organised as a discussion forum among the stakeholders described above where each species and habitat will be assessed per party and bio-geographical region, according to the agreed Reference List. The discussions will result in an agreed conclusion (see categories in Table 2) on sufficiency/ insufficiency of site proposals for each individual species and habitats present in the countries. Sites which do not host any species of Resolution (1996) No 4 or habitats of Resolution (1998) No 6 will be discussed to assess their suitability for designation as ASCI, referring to the general conditions for site selection described in Recommendation 16. Final detailed conclusions of the seminar, together with the revised Reference Lists and lists of approved sites, will be published on the Council of Europe's Emerald website.

At the later stages of the Emerald network building, after the bio-geographical seminar(s), further assessments may be required due to additional site proposals or modifications of existing sites and bi-lateral meetings may be called between an individual Bern Convention party and Bern Convention secretariat (involving also ETC/BD as an independent jury) to follow the site designation progress in a concerned party.

2.5 Actions after the seminar

Final Detailed Conclusions will guide parties on what actions they should undertake in order to improve the Emerald network at national and bio-geographical level. Table 2 shows the type and categories of conclusions that will be used during the seminar and actions that will be required from the parties after the seminar.

Together with dissemination of Final Detailed Conclusions, the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks and the Bern Convention Secretariat will agree on the date by when parties will be expected to deliver requested amendments and additions to site proposals.

Evaluation of site proposals will be an iterative process and further work will be required as a result of additional site proposals arising from seminar conclusions and/or changes due to improving scientific knowledge.

Table 2. Conclusions and their abbreviations used in bio-geographical seminars. Codes can be combined, for example 'IN MOD and CD' would indicate that additional sites are required and that the existing proposals need correcting or completing.

Code	Meaning	Action required
SUF	Sufficient	No further sites needed
IN MAJOR	Insufficient major	No sites proposed at present. A major effort to designate sites is needed.
IN MOD	Insufficient moderate	One or a number of additional sites (or maybe extension to sites) required. IN MOD GEO means that additional site(s) are required in certain region to eliminate geographical gap.
IN MIN	Insufficient minor	No additional sites required but habitat/species should be noted on sites already proposed for other habitats/species
CD	Correction of data	Data needs to be corrected / completed / deleted
Sci Res	Scientific reserve	A definite conclusion is not possible: need to investigate/clarify a scientific issue – interpretation of habitat, controversial presence of species, etc.

3. Approval and adoption of sites at the bio-geographical level

Once the iterative process of the evaluation of the Emerald candidate sites has reached a sufficient level of agreement, the last two steps of the overall procedure are undertaken:

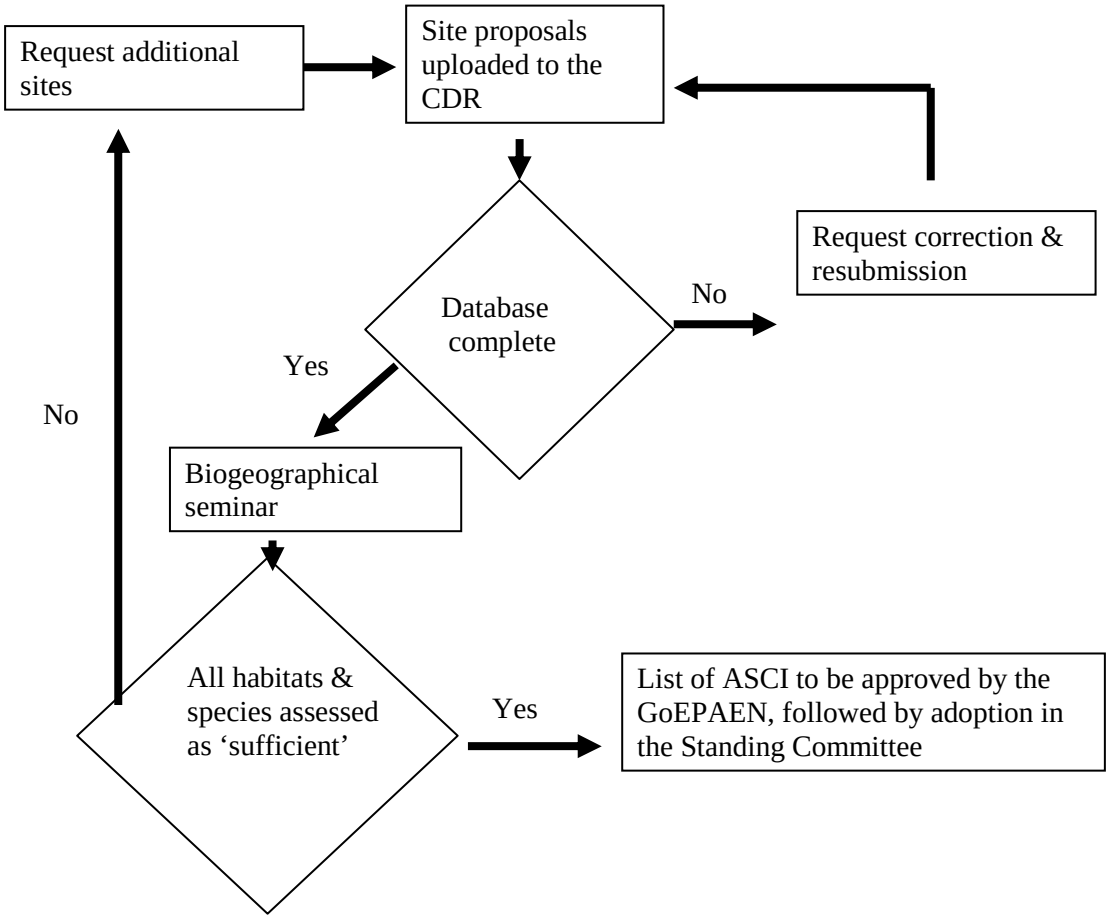
(8) Submission of the final database *sitelist* to GoEPAEN for discussion;

(9) Submission of the sitelist to the Bern Convention Standing Committee for adoption.

The Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks receives the final database of official candidate sites for discussion. The GoEPAEN will then forward the final list to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention for adoption. This final list will be published using the format as described above (Table 1).

Published EU Community Lists of NATURA 2000 sites are available as examples at:
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:030:0001:0042:EN:PDF

Figure 1. Schematic description of the Emerald network evaluation cycle: from database submission to approval of ASCIs.



Appendix 2

Information Form for Species or Habitats

DATE: .....
Proposed by: ..... (Countries)

Information Form for species or habitats to be included in:

☐ **Appendix I:** Strictly protected flora species

☐ **Appendix II:** Strictly protected fauna species

☐ **Appendix III:** Protected fauna species

and

☐ **Resolution (1998) 6:** Species requiring specific habitat conservation measures

or

☐ **Resolution (1996) 4:** Endangered natural habitats requiring conservation measures

Species proposal

Latin Name (incl. Author + Year):…….
Latin Synonyms: .....
Source of the scientific name: .....

Vernacular name:
English Name: .....
French Name: .....
other: (specify language):.....

Systematics:
Phylum: .....
Class: .....
Order: .....
Family: .....

Habitat proposal

EUNIS Habitat code: .....

Habitat title:.....

Habitat Definition: (only if a new subdivision in the EUNIS classification is suggested)
…….……

Proposal for amending Res. 6 or Res. 4: additional information needed

Name of Biogeographical Region(s) in which the species or habitat occurs (please mark with "x")

☐	**Alpine**	☐	**Anatolian**	☐	**Artic**	☐	**Atlantic**
☐	**Black Sea**	☐	**Boreal**	☐	**Continental**	☐	**Macaronesia**

☐ **Mediterranean** ☐ **Pannonic** ☐ **Steppic**

Marine region: (if a marine region map is adopted by the SC):

Is the Species or Habitat present in EUR 27: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Other International Conventions, Instruments and Agreements:
(Please mark with "x" if mentioned)

Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention):
Annex I ☐
Annex II ☐

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES):
Annex 1 ☐
Annex 2 ☐

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR)
Ref. 2008-6 part 1 ☐
Ref. 2008-6 part 2 ☐

Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
Annex I ☐
Annex II ☐
Annex IV ☐
Annex V ☐

Directive 2009/147/EC (79/409/EEC amended) on the conservation of wild birds
Annex I ☐
Annex II ☐
Annex III ☐

Other: (Barcelona Convention, IUCN red data books, etc ……)

Short Description / Distinguishing Characteristics

European Interest
Please mark with "X" for which of the following criteria the species or habitat is proposed (as interpreted from the guideline 1 in the Bern Convention's Recommendation 56 (1997), and also indicated in subparagraphs of Article 1 g of the Habitats Directive)

☐ *Endangered*, except those species whose natural range is marginal in that territory and which are not endangered or vulnerable in the Western Palaearctic Region

☐ *Vulnerable*, i.e. believed likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating

☐ *Rare*, with small populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable but at risk. The species is located within restricted geographical areas or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range

☐ *Endemic* and requiring attention by reason or the specific nature of its habitat or the potential impact of its exploitation on its habitat or the potential impact of its conservation status

Remarks:
as described in Recommendation 56 (1997) account will be taken of the category of threat, the vulnerability of the species to changes in its habitat, its particular link with a threatened habitat, the trends and variations in population level and its vulnerability to a possible non sustainable use. Account will be taken of whether the species is declining in the central area of its distribution, or it is only threatened in the border of its range.

For species only: ecological role (as described in Recommendation 56 (1997): account will be taken of the ecological role of the species, such as their position or role in the food chain (i.e. raptors, insectivorous species such as bats), their structural role in ecosystems (i.e. corals, heathlands) or the fact that endangered species or endangered ecosystems may be highly dependent on them (i.e. marine phanerogams like Posidonia oceanica) or risk to become threatened by their exploitation (like the mollusc Lithophaga lithophaga).

Geographical distribution

In addition, include maps with the distribution of the species or habitat (GIS format preferred), with reference to scale and projection.

- in the country:

- in the Pan-European region:

- in other parts of the world:

Further comments concerning the geographical distribution :(e.g. known subtypes, regional varieties, loci typici)

Estimated population size and trends (guideline 1 from Rec. 56 (1997):
(Indicate the situation in the country(ies) and, as far as possible, European wide and world wide) (according to EEA guidelines for indicating population data)

Reasons for decline or threats:

Conservation status: (within country, region, pan-European level, etc …)

Important references / literature / publications:
(especially those relevant for the taxonomy, conservation status and geographical distribution)

Further remarks: (any additional important information not given above, relevant for evaluating the proposal)

Picture of species or habitat:

Contact Person(s) for additional questions concerning this species or habitat:
(if multi-country proposal, please add relevant persons for each country)

Name: ……..
Institution: ……
Postal Address: ……...

Country: …….. Phone No: …….
Fax No: …… E-mail: ……..

If not identical with Contact Person, author of this data form:

Name:

Institution:

Postal Address:

Country:
Phone No:
Fax No:

E-mail:

Appendix 3

Revised Annex I of Resolution 4 (1996) of the Bern Convention on endangered natural habitat types using EUNIS habitat classification

ENDANGERED NATURAL HABITAT TYPES

	A	Marine habitats
	A1	Littoral rock and other hard substrata
	A1.1	High energy littoral rock
!	A1.11	Mussel and/or barnacle communities
	A4.14	Mediterranean and Black Sea communities of lower mediolittoral rock very exposed to wave action
!	A1.141	Association with [Lithophyllum byssoides]
	A1.2	Moderate energy littoral rock
!	A1.22	Mussels and fucoids on moderately exposed shores
	A1.4	Features of littoral rock
!	A1.44	Communities of littoral caves and overhangs
	A2	Littoral sediment
!	A2.2	Littoral sand and muddy sand
!	A2.3	Littoral mud
!	A2.4	Littoral mixed sediments
!	A2.5	Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds includes the following subtypes separately listed in or split units from the 1998 version: A2.521 Atlantic and Baltic brackish saltmarsh communities A2.531 Atlantic upper shore communities A2.542 Atlantic lower shore communities A2.5514 [Salicornia veneta] swards A2.5515 Black Sea annual [Salicornia], [Suaeda] and [Salsola] saltmarshes A2.553 Atlantic [Sagina maritima] communities
	A2.6	Littoral sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms
!	A2.61	Seagrass beds on littoral sediments
!	A2.621	[Eleocharis] beds
	A2.7	Littoral biogenic reefs
!	A2.72	Littoral mussel beds on sediment
!	A3	Infralittoral rock and other hard substrata includes the following subtypes separately listed in or split units from the 1998 version: A3.71 Robust faunal cushions and crusts in surge gullies and caves A3.74 Caves and overhangs in infralittoral rock
!	A4	Circalittoral rock and other hard substrata includes the following subtypes separately listed in or split units from the 1998 version: A4.24 Mussel beds on circalittoral rock

A4.26 Mediterranean coralligenous communities moderately exposed to hydrodynamic action
A4.32 Mediterranean coralligenous communities sheltered from hydrodynamic action
A4.71 Communities of circalittoral caves and overhangs

! A5 Sublittoral sediment
includes the following subtypes separately listed in or split units from the 1998 version:
A5.627 Baltic mussel beds in the infralittoral photic zone

A6 Deep-sea bed

A6.9 Vents, seeps, hypoxic and anoxic habitats of the deep sea
A6.91 Deep-sea reducing habitats
! A6.911 Seeps in the deep-sea bed

B Coastal habitats

B1 Coastal dunes and sandy shores

! B1.3 Shifting coastal dunes
! B1.4 Coastal stable dune grassland (grey dunes)
! B1.5 Coastal dune heaths
! B1.6 Coastal dune scrub
! B1.7 Coastal dune woods
! B1.8 Moist and wet dune slacks
! B1.9 Machair

B2 Coastal shingle
! B2.3 Upper shingle beaches with open vegetation

C Inland surface waters

C1 Surface standing waters

! C1.1 Permanent oligotrophic lakes, ponds and pools
includes the following subtype separately listed in or split unit from the 1998 version:
C1.14 Charophyte submerged carpets in oligotrophic waterbodies

C1.2 Permanent mesotrophic lakes, ponds and pools
C1.22 Free-floating vegetation of mesotrophic waterbodies
! C1.222 Floating [Hydrocharis morsus-ranae] rafts
! C1.223 Floating [Stratiotes aloides] rafts
! C1.224 Floating [Utricularia australis] and [Utricularia vulgaris] colonies
! C1.225 Floating [Salvinia natans] mats
! C1.226 Floating [Aldrovanda vesiculosa] communities
C1.24 Rooted floating vegetation of mesotrophic waterbodies
C1.241 Floating broad-leaved carpets
! C1.2416 [Nelumbo nucifera] beds
! C1.25 Charophyte submerged carpets in mesotrophic waterbodies

C1.3 Permanent eutrophic lakes, ponds and pools
C1.34 Rooted floating vegetation of eutrophic waterbodies
C1.341 Shallow-water floating communities
! C1.3411 [Ranunculus] communities in shallow water

! C1.3413 [Hottonia palustris] beds in shallow water

C1.4 Permanent dystrophic lakes, ponds and pools
! C1.44 Charophyte submerged carpets in dystrophic waterbodies

! C1.5 Permanent inland saline and brackish lakes, ponds and pools

C1.6 Temporary lakes, ponds and pools
! C1.66 Temporary inland saline and brackish waters
! C1.67 Turlough and lake-bottom meadows

C2 Surface running waters

C2.1 Springs, spring brooks and geysers
! C2.12 Hard water springs

C3 Littoral zone of inland surface waterbodies

C3.4 Species-poor beds of low-growing water-fringing or amphibious vegetation
! C3.41 Euro-Siberian perennial amphibious communities
C3.42 Mediterraneo-Atlantic amphibious communities
! C3.421 Short Mediterranean amphibious communities
! C3.422 Tall Mediterranean amphibious communities
C3.43 Central Eurasian amphibious communities
! C3.431 Ponto-Pannonic riverbank dwarf sedge communities

C3.5 Periodically inundated shores with pioneer and ephemeral vegetation
C3.51 Euro-Siberian dwarf annual amphibious swards
! C3.511 Freshwater dwarf [Eleocharis] communities
! C3.512 Dune-slack [Centaurium] swards
! C3.5132 Swards of small [Cyperus] species
! C3.5133 Wet ground dwarf herb communities
! C3.55 Sparsely vegetated river gravel banks

C3.6 Unvegetated or sparsely vegetated shores with soft or mobile sediments
! C3.62 Unvegetated river gravel banks

D Mires, bogs and fens

D1 Raised and blanket bogs

! D1.2 Blanket bogs

D2 Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires

D2.2 Poor fens and soft-water spring mires
D2.22 [Carex nigra], [Carex canescens], [Carex echinata] fens
! D2.226 Peri-Danubian black-white-star sedge fens
! D2.3 Transition mires and quaking bogs
includes the following subtype separately listed in or split unit from the 1998 version:
D2.3H Wet, open, acid peat and sand, with [Rhynchospora alba] and [Drosera]

D3 Aapa, palsa and polygon mires
! D3.1 Palsa mires
! D3.2 Aapa mires
! D3.3 Polygon mires

D4 Base-rich fens and calcareous spring mires

! D4.1 Rich fens, including eutrophic tall-herb fens and calcareous flushes and soaks
! D4.2 Basic mountain flushes and streamsides, with a rich arctic-montane flora

D5 Sedge and reedbeds, normally without free-standing water

! D5.2 Beds of large sedges normally without free-standing water

D6 Inland saline and brackish marshes and reedbeds

! D6.1 Inland saltmarshes
includes the following subtypes separately listed in or split units from the 1998 version:
D6.15 Interior Iberian [Microcnemum] and [Salicornia] swards
D6.16 Interior central European and Anatolian [Salicornia], [Microcnemum], [Suaeda] and [Salsola] swards

E Grasslands and lands dominated by forbs, mosses or lichens

E1 Dry grasslands

E1.1 Inland sand and rock with open vegetation
E1.11 Euro-Siberian rock debris swards
! E1.112 [Sempervivum] or [Jovibarba] communities on rock debris

! E1.2 Perennial calcareous grassland and basic steppes

! E1.3 Mediterranean xeric grassland

E1.7 Closed non-Mediterranean dry acid and neutral grassland
! E1.71 [Nardus stricta] swards

E1.8 Closed Mediterranean dry acid and neutral grassland
! E1.83 Mediterraneo-montane [Nardus stricta] swards

! E1.B Heavy-metal grassland

E2 Mesic grasslands

E2.2 Low and medium altitude hay meadows
! E2.25 Continental meadows

E3 Seasonally wet and wet grasslands

! E3.1 Mediterranean tall humid grassland
includes the following subtypes separately listed in or split units from the 1998 version:
E3.111 [Serapias] grassland

! E3.4 Moist or wet eutrophic and mesotrophic grassland
! E3.5 Moist or wet oligotrophic grassland

E5 Woodland fringes and clearings and tall forb stands

	E5.4	Moist or wet tall-herb and fern fringes and meadows
	E5.41	Screens or veils of perennial tall herbs lining watercourses
	E5.411	Watercourse veils (other than of [Filipendula])
!	E5.4111	[Angelica archangelica] fluvial communities
!	E5.4112	[Angelica heterocarpa] fluvial communities
!	E5.4113	[Althaea officinalis] screens
!	E5.414	Continental river bank tall-herb communities dominated by [Filipendula]
!	E5.415	Eastern nemoral riverbanks with tall herb communities
	E5.42	Tall-herb communities of humid meadows
!	E5.423	Continental tall-herb communities of humid meadows
!	E5.424	Eastern nemoral Tall-herb communities of humid meadows
	E6	Inland salt steppes
!	E6.1	Mediterranean inland salt steppes
!	E6.2	Continental inland salt steppes includes the following subtype separately listed in or split unit from the 1998 version: E6.23 Central Eurasian solonchak grassland with [Crypsis]
	E7	Sparsely wooded grasslands
!	E7.3	Dehesa
	F	Heathland, scrub and tundra
	F2	Arctic, alpine and subalpine scrub
	F2.2	Evergreen alpine and subalpine heath and scrub
	F2.22	Alpide acidocline [Rhododendron] heaths
!	F2.224	Carpathian [Rhododendron kotschyi] heaths
!	F2.225	Balkan [Rhododendron kotschyi] heaths
!	F2.26	[Bruckenthalia] heaths
	F3	Temperate and mediterranean-montane scrub
	F3.2	Submediterranean deciduous thickets and brushes
	F3.24	Subcontinental and continental deciduous thickets
!	F3.241	Central European subcontinental thickets
	F4	Temperate shrub heathland
!	F4.1	Wet heaths
!	F4.2	Dry heaths
!	F4.3	Macaronesian heaths
	F5	Maquis, arborescent matorral and thermo-Mediterranean brushes
	F5.5	Thermo-Mediterranean scrub
!	F5.52	[Euphorbia dendroides] formations
!	F5.54	[Chamaerops humilis] brush
!	F5.55	Mediterranean pre-desert scrub
!	F5.56	Thermo-Mediterranean broom fields (retamares)
!	F5.5B	Cabo de Sao Vicente brushes
	F6	Garrigue
!	F6.7	Mediterranean gypsum scrubs

!	F6.8	Xero-halophile scrubs
!	F7	Spiny Mediterranean heaths (phrygana, hedgehog-heaths and related coastal cliff vegetation)
	F9	Riverine and fen scrubs
!	F9.1	Riverine scrub
!	F9.3	Southern riparian galleries and thickets (Excluding F9.35: Riperian stands of invasive shrubs)
	G	Woodland, forest and other wooded land
	G1	Broadleaved deciduous woodland
	G1.1	Riparian and gallery woodland, with dominant [Alnus], [Betula], [Populus] or [Salix]
!	G1.11	Riverine [Salix] woodland
!	G1.12	Boreo-alpine riparian galleries
!	G1.13	Southern [Alnus] and [Betula] galleries
	G1.2	Mixed riparian floodplain and gallery woodland
!	G1.21	Riverine [Fraxinus] - [Alnus] woodland, wet at high but not at low water
	G1.22	Mixed [Quercus] - [Ulmus] - [Fraxinus] woodland of great rivers
!	G1.221	Great medio-European fluvial forests
!	G1.223	Southeast European [Fraxinus] - [Quercus] - [Alnus] forests
!	G1.224	Po [Quercus] - [Fraxinus] - [Alnus] forests
	G1.3	Mediterranean riparian woodland
!	G1.36	Ponto-Sarmatic mixed [Populus] riverine forests
!	G1.37	Irano-Anatolian mixed riverine forests
!	G1.38	[Platanus orientalis] woods
!	G1.39	[Liquidambar orientalis] woods
	G1.4	Broadleaved swamp woodland not on acid peat
	G1.41	[Alnus] swamp woods not on acid peat
	G1.411	Meso-eutrophic swamp alder woods
!	G1.4115	Eastern Carpathian [Alnus glutinosa] swamp woods
!	G1.414	Steppe swamp [Alnus glutinosa] woods
!	G1.44	Wet-ground woodland of the Black and Caspian Seas
	G1.5	Broadleaved swamp woodland on acid peat
!	G1.51	Sphagnum [Betula] woods
!	G1.6	[Fagus] woodland
!	G1.7	Thermophilous deciduous woodland (excluding G1.7D Castanea sativa woodland) includes the following subtypes separately listed in or split units from the 1998 version: G1.7B [Quercus pyrenaica] woodland G1.7C Mixed thermophilous woodland
!	G1.8	Acidophilous [Quercus]-dominated woodland
	G1.A	Meso- and eutrophic [Quercus], [Carpinus], [Fraxinus], [Acer], [Tilia], [Ulmus] and related woodland

!	G1.A1	[Quercus] - [Fraxinus] - [Carpinus betulus] woodland on eutrophic and mesotrophic soils
!	G1.A4	Ravine and slope woodland
!	G1.A7	Mixed deciduous woodland of the Black and Caspian Seas
!	G2	Broadleaved evergreen woodland (excluding G2.8 Highly artificial broadleaved evergreen forestry plantations and G2.9 Evergreen orchards and groves)
	G3	Coniferous woodland
	G3.1	[Abies] and [Picea] woodland
!	G3.15	Southern Apennine [Abies alba] forests
!	G3.16	Moesian [Abies alba] forests
!	G3.17	Balkano-Pontic [Abies] forests
!	G3.19	[Abies pinsapo] forests
!	G3.1B	Alpine and Carpathian subalpine [Picea] forests
!	G3.1C	Inner range montane [Picea] forests
!	G3.1D	Hercynian subalpine [Picea] forests
	G3.1E	Southern European [Picea abies] forests
!	G3.1E1	Southeastern Moesian [Picea abies] forests
!	G3.1E3	Montenegrine [Picea abies] forests
!	G3.1E4	Pelagonide [Picea abies] forests
!	G3.1E5	Balkan Range [Picea abies] forests
!	G3.1G	[Picea omorika] forests
!	G3.1H	[Picea orientalis] forests
	G3.2	Alpine [Larix] - [Pinus cembra] woodland
!	G3.21	Eastern Alpine siliceous [Larix] and [Pinus cembra] forests
!	G3.22	Eastern Alpine calcicolous [Larix] and [Pinus cembra] forests
!	G3.25	Carpathian [Larix] and [Pinus cembra] forests
!	G3.26	[Larix polonica] forests
	G3.3	[Pinus uncinata] woodland
!	G3.31	[Pinus uncinata] forests with [Rhododendron ferrugineum]
!	G3.32	Xerocline [Pinus uncinata] forests
	G3.4	[Pinus sylvestris] woodland south of the taiga
!	G3.41	Caledonian forest
	G3.42	Middle European [Pinus sylvestris] forests
	G3.423	Western Eurasian steppe pine forests
!	G3.4232	Sarmatic steppe [Pinus sylvestris] forests
!	G3.4233	Carpathian steppe [Pinus sylvestris] woods
!	G3.4234	Pannonic steppe [Pinus sylvestris] woods
	G3.44	Spring heath [Pinus sylvestris] forests
!	G3.442	Carpathian relict calcicolous [Pinus sylvestris] forests
!	G3.4C	Southeastern European [Pinus sylvestris] forests
!	G3.4E	Ponto-Caucasian [Pinus sylvestris] forests
	G3.5	[Pinus nigra] woodland
!	G3.51	Alpino-Apennine [Pinus nigra] forests
!	G3.52	Western Balkanic [Pinus nigra] forests
!	G3.53	[Pinus salzmannii] forests
!	G3.54	Corsican [Pinus laricio] forests
!	G3.55	Calabrian [Pinus laricio] forests
!	G3.56	[Pinus pallasiana] and [Pinus banatica] forests

!	G3.6	Subalpine mediterranean [Pinus] woodland
	G3.7	Lowland to montane mediterranean [Pinus] woodland (excluding [Pinus nigra])
	G3.71	Maritime [Pinus pinaster ssp. atlantica] forests
!	G3.711	Charente [Pinus pinaster ssp. atlantica] - [Quercus ilex] forests
!	G3.712	Aquitanian [Pinus pinaster ssp. atlantica] - [Quercus suber] forests
!	G3.714	Iberian [Pinus pinaster ssp. atlantica] forests
!	G3.72	[Pinus pinaster ssp. pinaster] ([Pinus mesogeensis]) forests
!	G3.73	[Pinus pinea] forests
	G3.74	[Pinus halepensis] forests
!	G3.741	Iberian [Pinus halepensis] forests
!	G3.742	Balearic [Pinus halepensis] forests
!	G3.743	Provenço-Ligurian [Pinus halepensis] forests
!	G3.744	Corsican [Pinus halepensis] woods
!	G3.745	Sardinian [Pinus halepensis] woods
!	G3.746	Sicilian [Pinus halepensis] woods
	G3.747	Italic [Pinus halepensis] forests
!	G3.7471	Gargano [Pinus halepensis] forests
!	G3.7472	Metapontine [Pinus halepensis] forests
!	G3.7473	Umbrian [Pinus halepensis] forests
!	G3.748	Hellenic [Pinus halepensis] forests
!	G3.749	Illyrian [Pinus halepensis] forests
!	G3.74A	East Mediterranean [Pinus halepensis] forests
!	G3.75	[Pinus brutia] forests
!	G3.8	Canary Island [Pinus canariensis] woodland
!	G3.9	Coniferous woodland dominated by [Cupressaceae] or [Taxaceae] includes the following subtypes separately listed in or split unit from the 1998 version: G3.9C [Cedrus] woodland
!	G3.D	Boreal bog conifer woodland
!	G3.E	Nemoral bog conifer woodland
	H	Inland unvegetated or sparsely vegetated habitats
!	H1	Terrestrial underground caves, cave systems, passages and waterbodies
	H2	Screes
	H2.6	Calcareous and ultra-basic screes of warm exposures
	H2.61	Peri-Alpine thermophilous screes
!	H2.613	Paris Basin screes
	X	Habitat complexes
!	X01	Estuaries
!	X02	Saline coastal lagoons
!	X03	Brackish coastal lagoons
!	X04	Raised bog complexes
!	X18	Wooded steppe
!	X29	Salt lake islands
!	X35	New EUNIS complex ! "Inland Sand Dunes"

Appendix 4

Activities for 2011

in Euros

1.	**Monitoring of the legal application of the Convention**		
1.1	**Reports of the implementation of the Convention in at least one Contracting Party and legal assistance to new Contracting Parties** Reports providing a legal analysis of the implementation of the Convention in two Contracting Parties, suggesting ways to improve such implementation and adapt it to the provisions of the Convention (for new Parties) *Fixed appropriation for consultants*		6,000
2.	**Conservation of natural habitats**		
2.1	**Group of experts on protected areas and ecological networks** *Terms of reference* To do the necessary work to implement Recommendation No. 16 (1989) and Resolution No. 3 (1996) on areas of special conservation interest. The group will review the technical documents prepared by the experts and make proposals to build up the Emerald Network. *Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each of the following 23 states:* *ALBANIA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, GEORGIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, MOLDOVA, MONACO, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SERBIA, , SLOVAKIA, "THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA",SWITZERLAND TURKEY, UKRAINE*	Strasbourg, 2 days, September	25,000
	Travel and subsistence expenses for 1 consultant.		1,000
2.2	**Biogeographical seminar for the implementation of the Emerald Network** *Travel and subsistence expenses for a consultant; interpretation and translation services* *Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each of the following 6 states (courtesy of the EEA):* *ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA, MONTENEGRO, SERBIA,"THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA",SWITZERLAND TURKEY, UKRAINE*	Strasbourg, 2 days, October-November (t.b.c.)	10,000
2.3	**Technical seminar for the setting-up of the Emerald Network in Norway**	Norway, 3 days, June (t.b.c.)	
2.4	**Technical seminar for the setting-up of the Emerald Network in Switzerland**	Switzerland, 3 days, August (t.b.c.)	
2.5	**Pilot projects for the setting-up of the Emerald Network at national level in some states** Financial contribution for the setting-up of the Network in 2 States (tbc)		20,000

2.6 Strategic implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network		
Fees, travel and subsistence expenses for a consultant		8,000
2.7 Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas	Strasbourg, 14-15 March	
Travel and subsistence expenses for eight delegates		8,000
Consultants for the Protected Areas and Ecological Networks Consultants will be hired to manage the setting-up of the Emerald Network and to do the necessary technical work required, included software, lists, handling of data, etc.		20,000

3. Monitoring of species and encouraging conservation action		
3.1 Biodiversity and Climate Change		
- Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change *Terms of reference:* Recognising the need to adapt conservation work to the challenges of climate change so as to minimise its impact on the species and natural habitats protected under the Convention, the Group of Experts will provide guidance to Parties on understanding climate change impacts and threats, and developing appropriate measures in national policies regarding the species and habitats protected under the Bern Convention.	Strasbourg, 3 days, October (t.b.c.)	
Travel and subsistence expenses for 1 expert from each of the following 21 states: *ALBANIA, ARMENIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA,CROATIA, DENMARK, FRANCE, GERMANY, ICELAND, LATVIA, NETHERLANDS, MOROCCO, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, SERBIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, UKRAINE, UNITED KINGDOM*		28,000
Participants: All Contracting Parties Observers: All observer states and qualified organisations active in this field.		
Travel and subsistence expenses of consultants		6,000
Consultants to prepare draft reports for consideration by the Group of Experts		12,000
3.2 Island Biodiversity		
- Group of Experts on Island Biodiversity *Terms of reference:* Identify specific conservation problems of biological diversity in European islands, registering threatened endemics, identifying island species and habitat-types at risk from global change, networking regional experts and contributing to the CBD's programme of work on island biodiversity, proposing special conservation solutions for European islands, liaising with the Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change regarding the impacts of climate change on island biodiversity in Europe.	Corsica, France, 9-11 June	
Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each of the following 15 States: *CROATIA, CYPRUS, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY, MALTA, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SWEDEN, TUNISIA, UNITED KINGDOM*		20,000

Participants: All Contracting Parties Observers: All observer states and qualified organisations active in this field.		
Travel and subsistence for three consultants		3,000
Consultants		12,000
3.3 Invasive Alien Species		
- Group of Experts on IAS	Malta, 3 days, 18-20 May	
Terms of reference: Follow-up and review the implementation of the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS). Discussion of CBD COP-9. Decision on IAS, preparation of guidance for Parties on accompanying animals and consideration of relevant issues such as trade, climate change, etc.		
Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each of the following 25 States: *ALBANIA, ARMENIA, BELGIUM, CROATIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, FINLAND, GEORGIA, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, IRELAND, MALTA, MOLDOVA, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, POLAND, PORTUGAL, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UKRAINE*		25,000
Participants: All Contracting Parties Observers: All observer states and qualified organisations active in this field.		
Travel and subsistence for four consultants *Consultants*		4,000 6,000
3.4 Conservation of Large Carnivores and Herbivores		
These activities are carried out in co-operation with the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE) and the Large herbivores (Eurasian support network), a number of regional working groups have been established to monitor implementation of European action plans.		
Training workshop for Large Carnivores (Tbilisi) Workshop on European bison (Ukraine)		7,000 5,000
3.5 Illegal killing of birds		
- Conference on Illegal Killing of Birds in co-operation with the European Commission and BirdLife	Cyprus, 3 days, 6-8 July	
Terms of reference: 31 years after the adoption of the Bern Convention and the Birds Directive, there are still difficulties in their implementation, illegal killing of birds being relatively common in some States. The Conference will identify the extent of the problem, see examples of best practice and make proposals to improve compliance with obligations.		
Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each of the following 17 States: *ALBANIA, AZERBAÏJAN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA,CROATIA BELGIUM, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, ITALY, MALTA, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, PORTUGAL, SERBIA, SPAIN, TUNISIA, TURKEY*		15,000

	Participants: All Contracting Parties Observers: All observer states and qualified organisations active in this field.		
	Travel and subsistence for three consultants		3,000
3.6	**European workshop on hamster conservation (to be confirmed)**	Germany, 2 days	
	Travel and subsistence grants for 8 participants		6,000

4	**Sectorial policies and biodiversity conservation**		
4.1	**Biodiversity in cities**		
	As more citizens live in cities, it becomes important to use cities for awareness on biodiversity conservation issues, making also cities more nature-friends. Report to analyse the issue and sugget possible activities		5,000
	This activity is to be carried out on co-operation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe		
4.2	**Charter on gathering of mushrooms and other wild biodiversity (in cooperation with IUCN).**		5,000

5.	**Monitoring of sites and populations at risk and Emergencies**		
5.1	**On-the-spot visits**		
	On-the-spot visits, by independent experts designated by the Secretary General to examine threatened habitats and travel and subsistence expenses incurred by such experts to inform the Standing Committee or its groups of experts. It includes appraisals of the European Diploma.		12,000
5.2	**Sites at risk as a result of an emergency**		
	Fixed appropriation to cover expenses for reports, travelling of experts or Secretariat to areas under a particular environmental stress as a result of natural catastrophes or accidents caused by man. It includes assistance to areas under political or military conflict. It may cover training of specialists, aid to establish environmental monitoring. This chapter will only be used under instruction of the Bureau and will be paid for both from the Council of Europe or by voluntary contributions.		
	Fixed appropriation for consultant		p.m.

6.	**Awareness and visibility**		
	Funds for the conception, the translation, the photocomposition and publication of technical documents, posters, brochures, stickers, postcards, making of buttons, and other documents. It includes publication on Internet and conception and update of a Website.		25,000

7.	**Operational expenditure of the Standing Committee's Secretariat**		
7.1	**Strategic development of the Convention after CBD/COP 10 for the European targets for 2020**		p.m

7.2	**Chair's expenses** Fixed appropriation to cover travel and/or subsistence expenses incurred by the Chairman or delegate T-PVS after consultation with the Secretary General. Expenses of the Chair to attend the meetings of the Standing Committee		4,000
7.3	**Delegates of African states and some delegates of Central and Eastern Europe** Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by the delegates of African states to attend the Standing Committee meeting or other meetings organised under its responsibility		7,600
	Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by some delegates from Contracting Parties of Central and Eastern Europe to attend the Standing Committee meeting.		8,000
7.4	**Travel of experts and Secretariat** Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by experts to attend meetings of special relevance under instruction from the Committee or the Chair, and Secretariat official journeys.		25,000
7.5	**Meetings of the Bureau** Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by the members of the Bureau to attend the Bureau meetings		10,000
	Secretariat: Staff and office costs		
7.6	**Permanent staff (provided by the CoE):** Administrator, Principal Administrative Assistant, Administrative Assistant		304,600
7.7	**Temporary staff**		70,000
7.8	**Office costs for temporary staff**		26,000
7.9	**Overheads (interpretation, translation and printing of documents)**		80,300
	TOTAL		**847,200**

The Bern Convention Special Account will be used to cover expenses that cannot be covered by the ordinary budget of the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe is expected to provide around € 586,300 in 2011 (€ 281,700 for financing the programme of activities including overheads, and € 304,600 for staff costs). Parties are expected to provide new voluntary contributions in 2011. A detailed report on 2010 expenditure and a list of voluntary contributions will be presented to the Committee for information.

Bern Convention Programme of Activities and Budget for 2011 (Summary)

in Euros

1.	**Monitoring of the legal application of the Convention**	**6,000**
1.1	Reports on the implementation of the Convention in one Contracting Party	6,000
2.	**Conservation of natural habitats**	**92,000**
2.1	Group of experts on protected areas and ecological networks	26,000
2.2	Biogeographical seminar for the implementation of the Emerald Network	10,000
2.3	Technical seminar for the setting-up of the Emerald Network in Norway	
2.4	Technical seminar for the setting-up of the Emerald Network in Switzerland	
2.5	Pilot projects for the setting-up of the Emerald Network at national level in some States	20,000
2.6	Strategic implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network	8,000
2.7	Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas	8,000
2.8	Consultants	20,000
3.	**Monitoring of species and encouraging conservation action**	**152,000**
3.1	Biodiversity and Climate Change	46,000
3.2	Island Biodiversity	35,000
3.3	Invasive Alien Species	35,000
3.4	Conservation of Large Carnivores and Herbivores	12,000
3.5	Illegal Killing of Birds	18,000
3.6	Hamster conservation	6,000
4.	**Sectorial policies and biodiversity conservation**	**10,000**
4.1	Biodiversity in the Cities	5,000
4.2	Collection of mushrooms and other wild species	5,000
5.	**Monitoring of sites and populations at risk and emergencies**	**12,000**
5.1	On-the-spot visits, including European Diploma appraisals	12,000
5.2	Sites at risk as a result of an emergency	p.m.
6.	**Awareness and visibility**	**25,000**
6.1	Costs of part-time webmaster, publications	25,000
7.	**Operational expenditure of the Standing Committee and its Secretariat**	**535,500**
7.1	Strategic development of the Convention after CBD/COP 10 for the European targets for 2020	
7.2	Chair's expenses	4,000
7.3	Delegates of African states and of some delegates of Central and Eastern Europe	15,600
7.4	Travel of experts and Secretariat	25,000
7.5	Meetings of the Bureau	10,000
	Secretariat: Staff and office costs	
7.6	Permanent staff (provided by the CoE)	304,600
7.7	Temporary staff	70,000
7.8	Office costs for temporary staff	26,000
7.9	Overheads (interpretation, translation and printing of documents)	80,300
	TOTAL	**832,500**