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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

31st meeting
Strasbourg, 29 November – 2 December 2011

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON
THE EUROPEAN 2020 TARGETS ON PROTECTED AREAS**

*Document established
by the Directorate of Democratic
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Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Draft Recommendation No. ... (2011) of the Standing Committee, adopted on ... December 2011, on the European 2020 targets on Protected Areas

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;

Considering Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention;

Having regard to Resolution No. 1 (1989) on the provisions relating to the conservation of habitats;

Having regard to its Recommendation No. 16 (1989) on Areas of Special Conservation Interest;

Having regard to its Resolution No. 3 (1996) on the setting-up of a pan-European Ecological Network;

Having regard to its Resolution No. 5 (1998) concerning the rules for the Network of areas of special conservation interest (Emerald Network);

Recalling that the 10th COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted 20 headline targets for 2020 organised under five strategic goals, comprising both aspirations for achievement at global level and a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets;

Further recalling Goal B “*Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use*” and Goal C “*Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity*” of the Strategic Plan for biodiversity (2011-2020) of the CBD;

Recalling the Aichi Target 11: *By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes;*

Further recalling the Aichi Target 5: *By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced;*

Stressing that protected areas and ecological networks equally contribute to the achievement of several other Aichi targets: Target 6 calling for a sustainable management of fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants; Target 10 on minimising the impact of climate change on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems and Target 12 on preventing from extinction the most threatened species and improving and sustaining their conservation status;

Welcoming the EU 2020 biodiversity Strategy, adopted by the Council of the European Union in June 2011, which set several EU targets and more particularly its Target 1, calling on Member States to *Fully implement*

the Birds and Habitats Directives by completing the establishment of the Network and ensuring its good management, finally aiming at halting the deterioration of and achieving a significant and measurable improvement in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation;

Further welcoming Target 2 of the EU 2020 biodiversity strategy stating that *By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems* and taking note of recent progress in the development of an EU Green infrastructure Strategy by 2012;

Welcoming the considerable efforts of Contracting Parties on the implementation of the Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network (2011 – 2020) in view of the identification of potential Emerald sites on their territory;

Considering that one of the objectives of the Bern Convention is to support as appropriate, the regional implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly in the fields of competence and expertise of the Bern Convention;

Recommends that Contracting Parties adopt, at the national and European levels, the following targets for Protected Areas:

EU targets:

Target 1: Fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives

Target 2: Maintain and restore ecosystems and their services

Other European targets:

1. By 2020, the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest is fully operational in all Contracting Parties and Observer states to the Bern Convention as planned in the 2020 Emerald Network Calendar (T-PVS/PA(2010)08revE).
 - 1.1 By 2012, to help Contracting Parties to achieve the European and world targets, the Bern Convention Standing Committee adopts guidelines on management for the Emerald sites and the monitoring of their implementation.
 - 1.2 By 2013, reporting guidelines on the management of the Emerald sites are developed and adopted by the Bern Convention Standing Committee.
 - 1.3 By 2014, the list of endangered natural habitats requiring specific conservation measures (Res No. 4 (1996) and the list of species requiring specific habitat conservation measures (Res No. 6 (1998) are updated and amended for the whole pan European region.
 - 1.4 By 2020, management arrangements for the designated Emerald sites are developed and fully implemented in all Contracting Parties and Observer states.
2. By 2020, in the light of the world Aichi targets, the Emerald Network is fully representative and covers at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of coastal and marine areas.
3. By 2020, the European Diploma of Protected Areas is fully representative for the whole European continent and its eleven biogeographical regions.
4. By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced, by the deployment of a broad European ecological network.