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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Group of Experts on
Protected Areas and Ecological Networks**

2nd meeting
14 – 15 September 2010
Council of Europe, Strasbourg,
Room 8

**DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME AND
BUDGET OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON PROTECTED AREAS AND ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS
FOR 2011**

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Culture and of Cultural and Natural Heritage*

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1. The Group of experts is invited to examine the present document and make proposals regarding the implementation of the activities for 2011, as a follow-up of the Programme of activities of the Bern Convention and of the Group of experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks.
2. This draft programme of activities will be included in the draft programme and budget submitted for adoption to the 30th Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, in Strasbourg on 6-9 December 2010.

Outline of activities

Conservation of natural habitats

Long-term aim

Conservation of natural habitats and implementation of Article 4 of the Convention, as well as Resolutions (89) 1, (96) 3, (96) 4, (98) 5, (98) 6 and Recommendations (89) 14, (89) 15 and (89) 16 of the Standing Committee.

Medium-term aim

Setting up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI) in Europe, and developing the Pan-European Ecological Network

Short-term aim

After having implemented 32 pilot projects from 1999 to 2010, efforts are now focussed on providing assistance to Contracting parties to pursue the setting-up of the Emerald Network and to complete it by 2020, in accordance with the provisions of the “Bern Declaration on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Europe”. In 2011, efforts will focus on Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine (targeted by a regional joint project financed by the European Union), as well as on the scientific assessment of data provided by Contracting Parties, in view of their future presentation to the Standing Committee for analysis and possible adoption. Co-ordination with the EU and the European Environment Agency will continue focussing on the harmonisation of the Natura 2000 and the Emerald networks, in view of strengthening the future Pan-European Ecological Network.

Funding

Council of Europe and voluntary contributions. A regional joint-project financed by the European Union.

Methods

Evaluation of ongoing projects; technical meetings at national/regional level; groups of experts and/or consultants.

As foreseen in Resolution (98) 5, this exercise is to be carried out in co-operation with the European Union. The European Union is responsible for sites in EU member states and the Council of Europe for the building of the Emerald network outside EU. The European Environment Agency is a common partner for both organisations with regards to the scientific evaluation of data.

Political interest

Protected areas have been widely recognized as a vital contribution to the conservation of the world's natural and cultural resources. For states candidates to the EU accession, the setting-up of the Emerald Network is largely perceived step towards the adaptation of national systems of protected areas to EU requirements. For non-EU member states, the Emerald Network allows for the creation of an homogeneous system of protected areas at the regional level, and contribute to the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network.

Activities for 2011

in Euros

2. Conservation of natural habitats		
2.1 Group of experts on protected areas and ecological networks <i>Terms of reference</i> To do the necessary work to implement Recommendation No. 16 (1989) 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. <i>Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each of the following 22 states:</i> ALBANIA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, GEORGIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, MOLDOVA, MONACO, MOROCCO, ROMANIA, RUSSIA, SERBIA, MONTENEGRO, SLOVAKIA, "THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA", TURKEY, UKRAINE <i>Travel and subsistence expenses for 1 consultant.</i>	Strasbourg, 2 days	25,000 1,000
2.2 Biogeographical seminar for the implementation of the Emerald Network <i>Travel and subsistence expenses for a consultant; interpretation and translation services</i>	Strasbourg, 2 days	10,000
2.3 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
2.4 Report on the state of progress of the Pan-European Ecological Network <i>Fees, travel and subsistence expenses for a consultant</i>		8,000
2.5 Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas <i>Travel and subsistence expenses for eight delegates</i>		8,000
2.6 Consultants 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.		10,000