

Strasbourg, 22 October 2010  
[pa13e\_2010.doc]

**T-PVS/PA (2010) 13**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

30<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 6-9 December 2010

---

SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS IN THE EU  
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY EAST AREA AND RUSSIA: EXTENSION OF THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU'S  
NATURA 2000 PRINCIPLES THROUGH THE EMERALD NETWORK

**SECOND PROGRESS REPORT**

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

---

*This document will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring this copy.  
Ce document ne sera plus distribué en réunion. Prière de vous munir de cet exemplaire*



Joint Programme funded by the European Union  
and implemented by the Council of Europe

**SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS IN THE EU  
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY EAST AREA AND RUSSIA: EXTENSION OF THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU's  
NATURA 2000 PRINCIPLES THROUGH THE EMERALD NETWORK**

**SECOND PROGRESS REPORT**

Programme title	Support for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the EU Neighbourhood Policy East area and Russia: extension of the implementation of the EU's NATURA 2000 principles through the Emerald Network
Contract number	DCI-ENV/2008/149-825
Programme area	Biodiversity
Budget	1 484 000 €
Funding	100% European Commission
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	36 months: 16 December 2008 – 15 December 2011

## Table of Contents

1. Project Synopsis .....	- 4 -
2. Description of the Programme.....	- 6 -
3. General assessment of implementation of Action activities.....	- 7 -
Expected results:.....	- 7 -
Summary of results:.....	- 8 -
4. Activities: Identification of potential sites of Areas of Special Conservation Interest of the Emerald network of the Bern Convention.....	- 9 -
I. Second National Workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in Armenia (1-2 February 2010) .....	- 10 -
II. Second National workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in Ukraine (10-11 February 2010) .....	- 10 -
III. Second National workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in Moldova (23-25 February 2010) .....	- 11 -
IV. Second and third National Workshops of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in Georgia (19 April 2010 and 31 August – 01 September 2010).....	- 11 -
V. Second National Workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in Belarus (4-5 May 2010).....	- 12 -
VI. Second National Workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in Azerbaijan (19-20 May 2010).....	- 12 -
VII. Second National Workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in the Russian Federation (14 June 2010).....	- 13 -
VIII. Sub-regional workshop for the setting up of the Emerald Network for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (Web-conference, 20-22 April 2010) .....	- 13 -
IX. Sub-regional workshop for the setting up of the Emerald Network for Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, the Russian federation (Sebezh State Reserve, the Russian Federation, 15-16 June 2010)	
X. Technical meetings .....	- 14 -
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS .....	- 15 -
I. Programme's monitoring .....	- 15 -
II. Contracts awarded.....	- 15 -
III. Changes to the work-plan .....	- 15 -
5. Partners and other co-operation.....	- 16 -
6. Visibility .....	- 17 -
7. Work-plan (September 2010 – December 2011).....	- 18 -
ANNEX I .....	- 21 -
Global work-plan .....	- 21 -
ANNEX II.....	25
Logical Framework.....	25
ANNEX III.....	27
Draft reference tables for species and habitats.....	27
ANNEX IV .....	28
Internal Evaluation form on the national workshops .....	28
ANNEX V.....	30
List of abbreviations .....	30

## 1. Project Synopsis

---

### Project background:

<b>Project Title:</b>	SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS IN THE EU NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY EAST AREA AND RUSSIA: EXTENSION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU's NATURA 2000 PRINCIPLES THROUGH THE EMERALD NETWORK
<b>Project Number:</b>	DCI-ENV/2008/149-825
<b>Date financing Agreement:</b>	03/12/2008
<b>Country:</b>	REGION NEIGHBOURHOOD
<b>Typology of Regional Programme:</b>	HYBRID REGIONAL
<b>Configuration of Regional Programme:</b>	5-8 COUNTRIES
<b>Start date – actual:</b>	16/12/2008
<b>End date – planned:</b>	16/12/2011
<b>End date – likely:</b>	16/12/2011
<b>Primary Commitment:</b>	€ 1 484 000

The decline of biodiversity continues worldwide. Ecological networks can positively influence the conditions for the survival of habitats and species. The Emerald Network as an extension of the Natura 2000 Network (referential to EU member states) is an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI), set up by the Council of Europe (CoE) as part of its work under the Bern Convention. In 2005-2008, a joint Emerald Network development programme was carried out in South-Eastern Europe through CARDS grants. Following this experience, the Programme of Work on Protected Areas was launched under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to identify and protect natural habitats to be part of the Emerald Network in the EU Neighbourhood Policy east Area and Russia. The project, funded by EU and implemented by CoE, aims at implementation of this Programme of Work in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

### Project Intervention Logic:

**Overall Objective** : To protect the biodiversity in the ENPI east countries and to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Project Purpose** : To implement the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and of the EU's principles and the Bern Convention concerning the protection of habitats and species in the ENPI east countries.

### Results :

(A) Identification of potential sites of ASCI of the Emerald network of the Bern Convention:

- 1) Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova: all potential sites;
- (2) Ukraine: 80% of potential sites;
- (3) Russia: 50% of potential sites;
- (4) Belarus: 10% of potential sites in pilot project; 50% at later stage.

(B) Submission of scientific data according to the requirements of the Bern Convention:

- (1) 30% by November 2009 (10% for Belarus);
- (2) 60% by November 2010;
- (3) Remaining data by November 2011.

**Target groups:** Relevant ministries (Emerald team members, designated by the governments) and stakeholders within the national biodiversity programmes.

**Project duration:** 36 months

## **2. Description of the Programme**

---

### **2.1 Name of beneficiary of grant contract:**

Council of Europe

### **2.2 Name and title of the Contact person:**

Mr. Robert Palmer, Director of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage (DG IV)

### **2.3 Title of the Action:**

“Support for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the EU Neighbourhood Policy East area and Russia: extension of the implementation of the EU’s NATURA 2000 principles through the Emerald Network”

### **2.4 Contract number:**

DCI-ENV/2008/149-825

### **2.5 Start date and end date of the reporting period (Progress Report):**

01 September 2009 – 30 September 2010

### **2.6 Target countries:**

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine

### **2.7 Final beneficiaries and recipients:**

#### Programme Beneficiaries:

Ministries of Environment of the targeted countries

#### Target groups:

- Armenia: Ministry of Nature protection, Bio-resources Management;
- Azerbaijan: Department for Biodiversity Protection and Specially Protected Natural Territories;
- Belarus: Belarusian Public Association “Ecological Initiative”;
- Georgia: Protected Areas Agency, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and the NGO NACRES
- Moldova: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Biosafety Office;
- The Russian Federation: the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and the organizations “Biologists for nature conservation” and “Baltic Fund for Nature”;
- Ukraine: State Agency for Protected Areas, Ministry of Environmental Protection, and the NGO Intereccentre.

#### Final beneficiaries:

The citizens of the targeted countries through a strengthened natural environment

### **3. General assessment of implementation of Action activities**

---

#### **Activities and results**

##### **Expected results:**

The Programme aims at the identification of the constitutive elements of the “Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest” of the Bern Convention in the seven countries targeted by the action. This work includes all the scientific and administrative tasks leading to the constitution of a comprehensive and detailed database with the potential Emerald sites.

The Council of Europe as implementing institution shall coordinate, contribute to, and monitor the scientific work leading to the identification, within the 36 months of the Programme’s implementation, of potential sites of Areas of Special Conservation Interest of the Emerald Network of the Bern Convention:

- in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova: identification of all potential sites;
- in Ukraine: identification of 80% of the potential sites, equitably designated in all the bio-geographical regions;
- in the Russian Federation: identification of 50% of the potential sites in all bio-geographical regions in European Russia (Alpine, Arctic, Boreal, Continental, Steppe, and Black Sea), to be selected in cooperation with the Russian authorities taking into account other programmes currently in progress;
- in Belarus: a pilot project for the launching of the Programme and the identification of approximately 10% of the potential sites to be achieved by the end of 2009, and followed by a second project of identification of the Emerald Network to be conducted in 2010 and 2011 leading to the identification of 50 % of the potential sites.

The data needed for the identification shall be provided according to the following three packages:

- By November 2009: 30% of the total data requested (10 % for Belarus); distribution of species and habitats according to biogeoregion; population data at national level for species and habitats; first set of GIS distribution data for selected species and habitats; first set of digital site boundary data;
- By November 2010: 60% of the total data requested; supplementary information for population data at national level; supplementary set of GIS distribution data for selected species and habitats; digital site boundary data for 60 %;
- By November 2011: all the remaining scientific data.

The data provided shall include:

- Distribution per bio-geographical region in each country of all species and habitats included in Resolutions No. 4 (1996) and No. 6 (1998) of the Bern Convention, and Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive and Annex I of the Birds Directive;
- Population data at the national level for all species and habitats identified from the above mentioned resolutions and annexes.
- Distribution maps of selected species and habitats in GIS format;
- Sites database for the sites to be listed with all ecological and descriptive data filled in;
- Digital boundaries for all sites in GIS format;

**Summary of results:**

For the second year of implementation of the Joint Programme, new contracts have been concluded with six out of the seven participating countries by the end of January 2010, thus complying with the recommendations formulated in the ROM Monitoring report. For what concerns Georgia, two contracts were signed in March 2010, one with the NGO NACRES for the scientific and technical work, and another one with the Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia for the co-ordination and visibility of the activities. The second National Workshops have been organised in each target country, between February and June 2010. In Georgia, the second national workshop was held through a web conference due to air traffic disruption following the eruption of a Volcano in Iceland. An additional National workshop in 2010 has been thus considered necessary. The national Workshops calendar is as follows:

- Armenia: Yerevan, 1-2 February 2010
- Ukraine: Kiev, 10-11 February 2010
- Moldova: Chisinau, 23-25 February 2010
- Georgia: Web-conference, 19 April 2010
- Belarus: Minsk, 4-5 May 2010
- Azerbaijan: Baku, 19-20 May 2010
- Russian Federation: Sebezh State Nature Reserve, 14 June 2010
- Georgia: Tbilisi, 31 August – 01 September 2010

In addition to the national Workshops, two sub-regional Workshops have taken place, one in the Russian Federation as planned, and a second one in Georgia, via a web-conference. The calendar of the sub-regional activities is as follows:

- Georgia: Web-conference, 20-21 April 2010
- Russian Federation: Sebezh State Nature Reserve, 15-16 June 2010

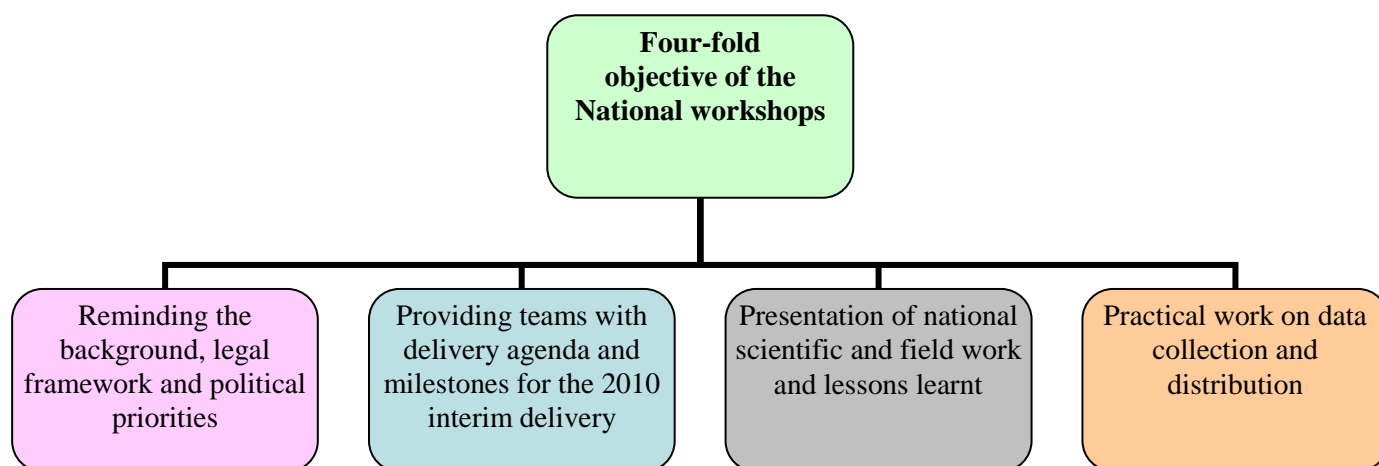
Following the first implementation year of the project, the data table devoted to the species which are not included in the Bern Convention's Resolution nor in the Annexes of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives already counts with more than 2000 records from approximately 750 species, especially for what concerns Armenia, Georgia, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. This is an additional result of the project and will put forward the issue of updating the current lists of species and habitats of European concern.

#### 4. Activities: Identification of potential sites of Areas of Special Conservation Interest of the Emerald network of the Bern Convention

---

##### OVERALL SUMMARY

The general scheme of the second national workshops was four-fold (see chart below). Although the launching National Workshops in 2009 were aimed at reviewing the results of the previous Emerald pilot projects and to explain in detail the expected results and delivery obligations, the second Workshops invited the national Emerald teams to be far more pro-active.



The national workshops opened with an introduction session on the different phases of the implementation of the Emerald Network, as well as on the goals and expectations for 2010. The backgrounds of the project as well as its legal framework were reminded to participants. Members of the national teams presented their scientific achievements since last years' meeting. They also had the opportunity to discuss with the project consultant the various difficulties they have encountered and lessons learned. The consultant reviewed and quality-checked the data delivered on the proposed Emerald sites, on the Distribution on Species and Habitats and on the GIS data for site boundaries, pointing out possible errors in the interim database.

A Data Quality Report has been established and forwarded to all National teams. A session was devoted to the practical work on data collection and registration, with particular reference to GIS distribution data for species and habitats.

In the light of the achievements and deliverables in 2009, the work plan for 2010 and milestones for its achievement were presented and discussed by the team in cooperation with the project consultant.

The national workshops provided the national teams with the opportunity to take a moment to brainstorm among them and to share with the scientific consultant the various issues they have encountered and the appropriated solutions they found. These meetings were also the right fora for the teams to review their own achievements and to plan their work ahead with a view to successfully deliver their data. They provided the opportunity to recall the need for a high level political commitment towards the effective implementation of the Network after the project completion, through management plans and allocation of resources at the national level.

It is important to note that due to air traffic disruption following the eruption of the Vulkan in Iceland, in April 2010, both the national workshop and the sub-regional workshop in Georgia were carried out through a web-conference connection. The tool proved to be effective in this particular case, especially because it allowed respecting deadlines and providing the necessary training to the Georgian National team. However, it didn't allow for informal discussions with the participants thus making active participation more difficult. Therefore a second National workshop was organised in Georgia in August 2010.

The sub-regional workshops enabled the national teams to enter in a “group” dynamic, sharing information and adapting their respective results to the project’s needs. For instance, the teams reviewed their own lists of species to be mapped in 2010, in order to select the maximum number of common species and to produce a more complete sub-regional map. They were also the occasion for insisting on the need for a high level political commitment towards the real implementation of the Emerald Network, through management plans and allocation of resources at the national level after the project’s completion.

## **I. Second National Workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in Armenia (1-2 February 2010)**

### **Objectives**

The second national workshop in Armenia aimed at consolidating and following-up the scientific work initiated in 2009, as well as preparing and launching the second phase of implementation of the joint project in the country. The workshop took place at the Centre for Environmental Projects of the Ministry of Nature Protection in Yerevan and was attended by representatives of the main Scientific Faculties of the country and Research Institutions.

### **Results and follow-up**

A field visit to Khor Virap wetland and Gorovan Sandy Desert, two potential Emerald sites, followed the two-day workshop. The specific situation for such a wetland in a rather dry environment and the human impacts on a deserted area were highlighted.

At the end of the first implementation phase, in 2009, Azerbaijan already produced data on 7 potential Emerald sites, covering an area of 714,260 ha.

## **II. Second National workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in Ukraine (10-11 February 2010)**

### **Objectives**

The workshop aimed to consolidate and follow-up the scientific work initiated in 2009, as well as to prepare and launch of the second phase of the joint programme. The meeting was held at the Ministry of Environmental protection of Ukraine.

### **Results and follow-up**

A field visit to the Golosiivsky National Nature Reserve, one of the potential Emerald sites within the city borders of Kiev, was organised. Among the main outputs of the visit, the specific situation and needs for such a large natural area, located within the city borders and completely surrounded by urbanized areas, was discussed with the managers and staff members of the National Nature Reserve. The need for specific management plans for the long-term survival of the species and the habitats included in the Bern Convention’s Resolutions and present in the park were particularly stressed.

The meeting was also the occasion for highlighting an awareness raising initiative, launched by the Emerald national team in Ukraine: in one of the proposed Emerald sites, the inventory work was carried-out together with a number of students. This allowed the children to discover some

interesting species and habitats of European concern, and thus resulted in a short movie documenting this co-operation project. The initiative stressed the strong links between biodiversity conservation and education, and created synergies with the Union of Teachers of Ukraine, through a partnership with the Emerald national team. This good practice could be repeated in other countries.

At the end of the first implementation phase, in 2009, Ukraine already produced data on 44 potential Emerald sites, covering an area of 1.196.989 ha.

### **III. Second National workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in Moldova (23-25 February 2010)**

#### **Objectives**

The second national workshop in Moldova aimed at consolidating and following-up the scientific work initiated in 2009, as well as preparing and launching the second phase of implementation of the joint project in the country.

#### **Results and follow-up**

The national team members presented the conclusions of their scientific and field work (field visits were carried-out to Codrii, Plaiul Fagului, Orhei, and Unghur Holosnita among others), as well as the lessons learnt in 2009. They informed that the National Action Plan on biodiversity, adopted in 2000, already foresees the adequate management of protected areas among its obligations.

On 25 February the consultant had a meeting with Deputy Minister Chirica, whom informed him about the status of the negotiations in the framework of the future EU Association Agreement. In June 2009 the Council of the European Union adopted the Guidelines for negotiating this agreement with Moldova. The text of the Association Agreement is being drafted by 4 working groups, one of which deals with the sectoral co-operation and thus includes environmental issues such as biodiversity conservation and restoration and rehabilitation of protected areas.

Mr. Chirica confirmed that the Emerald Network, which is complementary to the NATURA 2000 one, will have a key role in the perspective of the international co-operation on the environmental and biodiversity field. He also confirmed the commitment of the Ministry of Environment to support the project's activities and to ensure its adequate follow-up through the future management and protection of the Emerald sites selected in Moldova.

A field trip to Orhei Forest area, one of the potential Emerald site, was organised back-to-back the national workshop. Participants were confronted with the damages caused by the difficult weather conditions of this winter to the oaks' forest area, with up to 20% of the trees affected. In other parts of the country the percentage of the damages raises up to 80%. The director of the Park explained that the local scientific community endorses this situation to the consequences of climate change.

At the end of the first implementation phase, in 2009, Moldova already produced data on 5 potential Emerald sites, covering an area of 34.045 ha.

### **IV. Second and third National Workshops of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in Georgia (19 April 2010 and 31 August – 01 September 2010)**

#### **Objectives**

The second national workshop (organised via web-conference) and well as the third national workshop (August 2010) in Georgia were both aimed at consolidating and following-up the scientific work initiated in 2009, as well as preparing the delivery for 2010.

**Results and follow-up**

The third national workshop was held at the offices of NACRES, with the participation of the representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. The aims of the project were reviewed together with the newly appointed national team leader and the administrative and political implications were highlighted with the staff of the Ministry.

A field visit to the Kazbegi National Park was organized during the second day of the workshop. Specific problems related to mountainous area and the socio-economical situation in the region could be highlighted. On spot, the question of delineating the potential Emerald site in relation to the existing borders of the National Park was raised.

At the end of the first implementation phase, in 2009, Georgia already produced data on 17 potential Emerald sites, covering an area of 198.539 ha.

**V. Second National Workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in Belarus (4-5 May 2010)****Objectives**

The second national workshop in Belarus aimed at consolidating and following-up the scientific work initiated in 2009, as well as preparing the delivery for 2010.

**Results and follow-up**

The workshop was organized in the touristic facilities nearby the “Pripyatsky” National Park, in the village Lyaskovichi, South of Belarus. Staff members of the National Park attended the workshop and were very interested in following the discussions on the goals and results from the Emerald project. The Pripyat river and surrounding wetlands are one of the largest and most pristine areas in the whole of Europe. This exceptional ecological situation was also highlighted during the discussions and, more particularly, the question on how to delineate potential Emerald sites in such a vast area was reviewed.

A field visit to the national park and surrounding area was organised during the second day of the workshop. The specific socio-economical situation within such a large wetland with very scattered inhabitation was emphasized.

At the end of the first implementation phase, in 2009, Belarus already produced data on 3 potential Emerald sites, covering an area of 257.545ha.

**VI. Second National Workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in Azerbaijan (19-20 May 2010)****Objectives**

The second national workshop in Azerbaijan aimed at consolidating and following-up the scientific work initiated in 2009, as well as preparing the delivery for 2010.

**Results and follow-up**

The workshop was initially scheduled to take place in February, but it was postponed at the request of the National partners, due to overlap with another unexpected national meeting. The project manager worked on ensuring a renewed commitment by national authorities as a condition for a fruitful continuation of the project in the country. The participation of Minister Bagirov, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan at the workshop was thus highly appreciated and officially confirmed the political support to the project. The workshop was also the occasion to recall the obligations deriving from the Bern Convention.

The active participation of Mr. Jean-Louis Lavroff, Head of Operations of the European Union Delegation to Azerbaijan (participating in his capacity of Chargé d'Affaires, replacing Ambassador Kobia, the Head of the EU Delegation) and Ms Veronika Kotek, Special Representative of the Council of Europe Secretary General, contributed to highlight the European dimension of the project, as well as to facilitate joint coordination of action in the field of biodiversity.

The workshop was followed by a field visit to Shirvan National Park, a very interesting steppic area which includes some wetlands and a few mud volcanos. The Director of the Park explained that the number of national visitors is increasing every year. To achieve this objective, the managers of the Park have launched awareness raising initiatives at national level targeting students, mainly through interventions in schools, competitions on biodiversity, dissemination of brochures. It is interesting to stress that the entrance to the Park is free of charge for schools.

At the end of the first implementation phase, in 2009, Azerbaijan already produced data on 7 potential Emerald sites, covering an area of 714.258 ha.

## **VII. Second National Workshop of the Emerald Network Joint Programme in the Russian Federation (14 June 2010)**

### **Objectives**

The second national workshop in the Russian Federation aimed at consolidating and following-up the scientific work initiated in 2009, as well as preparing the delivery for 2010.

### **Results and follow-up**

The meeting was organised at the invitation and with the participation of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of the Russian Federation.

The meeting was held in Sebezh National Park, a candidate Emerald site situated in the Daugava river basin belonging to the Baltic Sea drainage area, in the south of the Pskov region, on the border with Latvia and Belorussia. The National Park lies in the transition zone between south taiga and the European plain forest zone. The Park area is about 500 sq. km, covered by forests and wetlands.

It is important to note that Ecotourism is developed under very strict conditions in order to preserve wilderness. The Director of the Park attended the meeting and organised a visit to the Park's Education Centre, located in the city of Sebezh. The Education Centre serves for organising weekly activities for children and students, aiming at raising awareness on nature protection. The Park issues a weekly newspaper; it organises public competitions on environmental education; it published a manual on ecology with exercises and games for children; it produced an interactive CD for teachers (see attached).

At the end of the first implementation phase, in 2009, the Russian Federation (European part) already produced data on 61 potential Emerald sites, covering an area of 7.304.579 ha.

## **VIII. Sub-regional workshop for the setting up of the Emerald Network for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (Web-conference, 20-22 April 2010)**

### **Objective**

The Sub-regional Workshop was designed to bring together the national Emerald team leaders from three countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) and allow them to compare their respective results and to share lessons learned. It was also aimed at facilitating the exchange of good practices among countries in relation to the scientific, but also organisational part of the project implementation at national level.

**Results and follow-up**

The sub-regional workshop enabled the national teams to enter in a “group” dynamic, sharing information and adapting their respective results to the project’s needs. For instance, the teams reviewed their own lists of species to be mapped in 2010, in order to select the maximum number of common species and to produce a more complete sub-regional map.

**IX. Sub-regional workshop for the setting up of the Emerald Network for Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, the Russian federation (Sebezh State Reserve, the Russian Federation, 15-16 June 2010)****Objective**

The Sub-regional Workshop was designed to bring together the national Emerald team leaders from four countries (Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine) and allow them to compare their respective results and to share lessons learned. It was also aimed at facilitating the exchange of good practices among countries in relation to the scientific, but also organisational part of the project implementation at national level.

**Results and follow-up**

The sub-regional workshop enabled the national teams to enter in a “group” dynamic, sharing information and adapting their respective results to the project’s needs. For instance, the teams reviewed their own lists of species to be mapped in 2010, in order to select the maximum number of common species and to produce a more complete sub-regional map.

Participants were very enthusiastic about the project developments, as now they feel they master its objectives and they start estimating its results. The relevance of the project and its smooth running were emphasised by the representative of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of the Russian Federation in her concluding remarks.

**X. Technical meetings**

On 16 March a technical meeting was held with representatives of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the EEA’s European Topic Centre for Biological Diversity in Paris, in order to further discuss the procedure of co-operation between the EEA and the Council of Europe.

The meeting was dedicated to the elaboration of a work programme, including deadlines, for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between both organisations, in the light of the progress made in the setting-up of the Emerald Network through the current Joint Programme. More concretely, the meeting confirmed ETC readiness to provide assistance in carrying out the scientific assessment of the Emerald proposed sites, as a follow-up to this Programme. EEA will continue to be informed about the scientific outcomes of the Programme, and invited to attend all relevant meetings. ETC staff members work in close co-operation with the Programme’s consultant for the elaboration of evaluation criteria, harmonising the process under the NATURA 2000 and the Emerald Network.

In September, a second technical meeting took place between the EEA and the Council of Europe, when the practical arrangements of the joint work between the two organisations on the Emerald process have been further discussed. Most importantly, access to the Central Data Repository (CDR) was arranged for all national teams of the Joint Programme. Data delivery for November 2010 will thus be expected to be uploaded directly on the CDR platform. One person was designated by the teams as responsible for the uploading process. CDR is the database, which contains records describing environmental reporting obligations that countries have towards international organisations.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **I. Programme's monitoring**

Due to a change in the responsibilities of the previous project manager within the Council of Europe, a new Project manager has been hired to take over the task of managing the Joint Programme as from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010. The change of Project manager has been operated smoothly, as the previous responsible for the Programme management is now in charge of the Bern Convention Secretariat at the Council of Europe and is supervising the work of the new staff member, thus anticipating any difficulty which might normally arise during the transition period. In addition, the new project Manager has extensive experience with EU funded projects and their management from her previous position and was thus able to be immediately operational. She established good contacts with the Emerald teams and partners at governmental level.

A change has also been operated at the European Commission level concerning the position of project manager for the Joint Programme at the Europe Aid Unit. Mr. Martin Kaspar has been appointed as the new project manager in charge of the Joint Programme at the European Commission. Contacts have been established in a short delay; a first coordination meeting will take place in Strasbourg, at the occasion of Mr. Kaspar participation at the Steering Committee meeting. A second one could be eventually organised in November 2010, in Brussels.

The Project manager in Strasbourg is proceeding to the continuous internal monitoring of the Programme's implementation, and has prepared a questionnaire at the attention of the Team Leaders on the quality of the project administration and events; more precisely the National Workshops and their design, organisation and content (see Annex IV).

In addition, an external and independent monitoring process is being carried out by INTEGRATION, within the framework of EC monitoring of ENPI funded projects. The person in charge of the external monitoring of the Joint Programme will assist to the 2<sup>nd</sup> project Steering Committee in October 2010.

### **II. Contracts awarded**

As in 2009, Administrative Arrangements have been prepared and signed with all the participating countries for the second year of the Programme's implementation. In order to avoid the delays occurred during the first implementation year concerning the contract signing and the transfer of funds, maximum efforts were put in signing the contracts already in January 2010. This was the case for 6 out of the seven target countries. For what concerns Georgia, two contracts were signed in March, one with the NGO NACRES for the scientific and technical work and another one with the Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia for the co-ordination and visibility of the programme at national level.

Due to a change in the responsibilities of the current project manager within the Council of Europe, a new person has been hired to take over the task of managing the Joint Programme. The person has been hired as from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 and has been chosen for her competences and skills in managing several EU funded projects.

A request has been addressed to the European Commission to proceed to the second instalment of the Programme's grant to the European Commission in April 2010 and in September 2010.

### **III. Changes to the work-plan**

The second National workshop in Azerbaijan, initially scheduled to take place in February, was postponed at the request of the National partners. The new proposed date allowed for the participation of Minister Bagirov, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan.

Due to the air traffic disruption following the eruption of the Vulcan in Iceland in April 2010, both the national workshop and the sub-regional workshop in Georgia (gathering participants from Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan) were carried out through a web-conference connection. Although the web-conferences replacing the second national workshop in Georgia and the sub-regional Workshop also in Georgia were successful, they did not allow for informal discussions and for more active participation from the national team. Thus a Second national Workshop has been organised in Georgia, taking place in August 2010.

The Russian Federation has submitted an official request for a cost-neutral amendment of its initial budget allocation for 2010. More funds have been devoted to remuneration of experts instead of administrative costs.

The changes in the work-plan reported here have no incidence on the initially foreseen budget.

## **5. Partners and other co-operation**

---

**How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and the beneficiaries and recipients of the Action? How has this relationship affected the Action?**

From the beginning of the implementation of the Programme, the representatives of the target groups have shown a keen interest in it, as well as readiness to co-operate. Excellent relations have been developed between the target groups and the scientific consultant. During the second implementation year, the organisation of two sub-regional workshops consolidated the national teams from one side and by facilitating the exchanges between target countries, created an excellent “group dynamic” between countries on the other side. These good work relations between countries are particularly important in the current action. The joint work of the various national teams at international sub-regional level will only grow with the establishment of the Emerald Network, when the national Emerald sites from the target countries will be linked to the rest of Europe.

Consultations with the officials of Europe Aid (EC) in Brussels continue to take place on a regular basis. Also, the Project manager continues to be in contact with each European Commission Delegation to the targeted countries. Coordination with the Council of Europe’s field offices in the targeted countries has also been ensured, as well as with the Coordinator of Joint Programmes in the Council of Europe Brussels Office.

**If your organisation has received previous EC grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EC grants).**

The current EC/CoE Joint Programme is partly a continuation of the previous co-operation between the CoE and the EC entitled: “Development of the Emerald Sites Network in South-East Europe under the CARDS programme of the European Environment Agency”. This was the first regional cooperation project with non EU-countries to assist with the implementation of the Emerald Network.

The project was successfully conducted from 2005 to 2006 in six South-Eastern European countries. The targeted groups were not the same but the aims and the methodology used for the current Joint Programme are largely inspired on that previous experience in South-East Europe.

The above mentioned project, funded by the CARDS, in cooperation with the EEA, and with a budget of 170,000 €, resulted in the identification of 80% of the potential sites of the Emerald Network and the delivery of 60% of the scientific data in the following countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”. A second contract followed in 2007-2008 for the project completion as well as for the delivery of all scientific data related to the sites in these six countries.

In 2010, major efforts have been carried-out to ensure the follow-up, and thus the sustainability, of the CARDS project. The Council of Europe and EEA agreed to jointly start the scientific assessment of the delivered data, through the preparation of biogeographical seminars, scheduled to take place in 2011.

## **6. Visibility**

---

### **How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?**

The Project manager has sent information about the Programme, including the contract, the updated work-plan and the first progress report to each European Commission Delegation to the targeted countries. Co-ordination with the Council of Europe’s field offices in the targeted countries has also been ensured. The members of the delegations of the participating countries are invited to all important events and are proposed to address the opening remarks.

A presentation of the Programme will be included in a dedicated publication on biodiversity projects to be presented by the EU at the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biodiversity to be held in Nagoya in October 18-29 2010.

EU visibility is also ensured through the inclusion of the Joint Programme’s logo on all publications, materials, programmes and letters distributed by the Secretariat in Strasbourg. European table flags are displayed at any project’s events. EU representatives of the Delegation to Azerbaijan, Belarus and Ukraine attended the national workshops.

The website of the Council of Europe’s Biodiversity Unit has been revamped and updated, and a dedicated page on the Joint Programme published in 2009 is regularly updated. Press releases published by the Council have mentioned the funding source. Programme’s brochures in English have been printed for wider dissemination and visibility of the Programme.

### **Next steps**

The translation of the Programme’s brochure in languages other than English is foreseen as well as the regular update of the Programme webpage.

## 7. Work-plan (September 2010 – December 2011)

The work-plan below has been agreed by Emerald Team Members at the Second Steering Committee Meeting.

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible]

1.2 - Collection of scientific data according to the requirements of the Bern Convention.		2010	9	10	11	12		2011	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Under way	Scientific Consultant																			
1.3 - Ensure proper project management.		2010	9	10	11	12		2011	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Under way	Project Management																			
Under way	Assistant to the Project Manager																			
Planned	Steering Committee meeting, Year 2																			
Planned	Steering Committee meeting, Year 3																			

Next workshops will be held according to the following calendar:

- February 2011: National workshops in Ukraine ;
- March 2011: National workshops in Moldova and Belarus;
- April 2011: National Workshop in Armenia and the Russian Federation, Sub-regional workshop in the Russian Federation
- May-June 2011: National workshops in Azerbaijan and Georgia; Regional workshop in Georgia ;
- October 2011: Third Steering Committee Meeting, Strasbourg

### *Global work-plan*

1 - Promotion of the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PWWA) in Eastern Europe and Russia.

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

1.2 - Collection of scientific data according to the requirements of the Bern Convention.		2009	2010	2011
Scientific Consultant				
1.3 - Ensure proper project management.		2009	2010	2011
Project Management				
Assistant to the Project Manager				

## ANNEX II

### Logical Framework

	Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
<b>Overall objective</b>	Protection of biodiversity in the ENPI east countries and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).	Evolution of species and habitats	Progress reports to CBD	---
<b>Project purpose</b>	Implementation of CBD programme of work on protected areas and of EU's principles and the Bern Convention concerning the protection of habitats and species in the ENPI east countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existence and effective implementation of legislation and management plans on protected areas</li> <li>- Evolution of species and habitats in the Emerald sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress reports to CBD and Bern Convention</li> <li>- Opinion of Standing Committee of the Bern Convention</li> <li>- Progress and final reports of project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Political will and financial resources in the partner countries to take further measures to protect biodiversity</li> <li>- Political stability within the countries</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<p>A) Identification of potential sites of Areas of Special Conservation Interest of the Emerald network of the Bern Convention</p> <p>1) Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova: all potential sites</p> <p>2) Ukraine: 80% of potential sites</p> <p>3) Russia: 50% of potential sites</p> <p>4) Belarus: 10% of potential sites in pilot project; 50% at later stage</p> <p>B) Submission of scientific</p>	<p>A) Percentage of identified potential sites</p> <p>B) Quantity and quality of submitted scientific data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conclusions of national, regional, and steering committee meetings</li> <li>- Opinion of scientific consultant</li> <li>- Opinion of Emerald expert group</li> <li>- Opinion of European Topic Centre for Biological Diversity</li> <li>- Progress and final reports of project</li> <li>- Database</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Political will and financial resources in the partner countries to develop and implement legislation and management plans on protected areas</li> <li>- Experts for continuous monitoring can be mobilised</li> <li>- Stakeholder involvement to ensure successful implementation</li> </ul>

	data according to the requirements of the Bern Convention 1) 30% by November 2009 (10 % for Belarus) 2) 60% by November 2010 3) Remaining data by November 2011.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Political stability within the countries</li> <li>- Absence of tensions between the countries for cross-border sites</li> </ul>
<b>Activities</b>	A) Management and administration B) Scientific work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- set-up of national Emerald teams</li> <li>- training</li> <li>- field work</li> <li>- data collection</li> <li>- selection and description of potential sites</li> <li>- building up of database</li> <li>- data transmission</li> </ul> C) Meetings for coordination and exchange of experiences D) Complementary actions	<b>Inputs:</b> EC contribution of EUR 1,484,000 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- full-time project manager at Council of Europe (CoE)</li> <li>- half-time secretary at CoE</li> <li>- scientific consultant (full time, four months per year)</li> <li>- subcontracts with the partner countries' governments</li> <li>- costs for travelling and meetings</li> </ul> Contributions in kind of CoE and partner countries	Financial part of progress and final reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support from the partner countries' governments</li> <li>- Experts for national Emerald teams can be mobilised</li> <li>- Political stability within the countries</li> <li>- Absence of tensions between the countries for cross-border sites</li> </ul>

### **ANNEX III**

#### ***Draft reference tables for species and habitats***

**Data prepared by Mr. Marc Roekaerts, Scientific coordinator**

The table below represents the number of species, identified in each country, from Resolution 6, annex II of the Habitats Directive and annex I of the Birds Directive. It should be noted that the figures below include the first review data of the second implementation year, but they should still be considered as **draft data**.

Draft Data

	Total In Res. 6	AM	AZ	GE	BY	MD	RU	UA	<b>Total in ENPI- region</b>
Plants	683	7	16	12	19	10	80	47	<b>111</b>
Amphibians	29	1	1	1	2	3	3	6	<b>8</b>
Birds	208	117	119	65	73	51	146	114	<b>153</b>
Fish	79	5	8	?	12	3	18	18	<b>31</b>
Invertebrates	138	5	8	?	24	3	39	21	<b>48</b>
Mammals	63	16	16	18	12	10	35	24	<b>44</b>
Reptiles	30	4	5	5	1	3	6	4	<b>8</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1230</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>403</b>

**ANNEX IV*****Internal Evaluation form on the national workshops***

Support for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)'s Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the EU Neighbourhood Policy East Area and Russia <http://jp.coe.int>

Council of Europe  
Conseil de l'Europe



European Union  
Union européenne

**2<sup>nd</sup> Project Steering Committee Meeting**

Strasbourg, 14 October 2010  
Palais, Room 14  
9:30-16:00

**Evaluation form on the National Workshops on the implementation of the Emerald Network****INSTRUCTIONS**

This evaluation form aims at gathering your impressions on the organisation, content and outcomes of the 2010 national workshops in the frame of the Emerald Network Joint Programme. This information will help the Council of Europe project manager and the project scientific consultant understand how the workshops are perceived. Your feedback will help us improve and streamline the workshop organisation in order to ensure more efficiency and support to national Emerald teams. Please, rate the various aspects of the workshop on a 1 to 5 scale<sup>1</sup>, where 1 represents the lowest and most negative impression on the scale, 3 represents a satisfactory impression, and 5 represents the highest and most positive impression. Circle your response for each item separately.

Your feedback is sincerely appreciated. Thank you.

**WORKSHOP PLANNING**

Cooperation between the Council of Europe and national teams during the planning of the workshop was high-quality	1 5	2	3	4
The workshop objectives were well defined	1 5	2	3	4
Participants were well informed on the workshop objectives	1 5	2	3	4
The role and expectations towards the participants at the workshop were clear	1 5	2	3	4

**WORKSHOP DESIGN AND CONTENT**

The workshop agenda was well structured	1 5	2	3	4
The workshop agenda allowed for flexibility when needed	1	2	3	4

<sup>1</sup> 1=Strongly disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neutral, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly agree

	5			
Sufficient time was foreseen for discussions and questions	1 5	2	3	4
The workshop materials were relevant	1 5	2	3	4
The workshop materials were sent on time	1 5	2	3	4
The national specificities were taken into account during the design of the workshop	1 5	2	3	4

### WORKSHOP OVERALL EVALUATION AND RESULTS

Generally, the workshop lived up to my expectations	1 5	2	3	4
Presentations from the project consultant were very helpful with regards to the Emerald network technical and scientific work	1 5	2	3	4
The quality check of national data delivery was comprehensible and helpful	1 5	2	3	4
Questions from participants were answered in a satisfactory way	1 5	2	3	4
The workshop helped the national team understand the future goals and expectations in relation to the setting-up of the Emerald network in my own country	1 5	2	3	4
Informal discussions between the national team and the project management were sufficient and helpful	1 5	2	3	4

From which workshop session(s) did you learn the most? Why?

From which workshop session(s) did you learn the least? Why?

Any comments/suggestions on the organisation of the national workshop in 2011 in your country?

**ANNEX V*****List of abbreviations***

CARDS	Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDDA	Common Database on Designated Areas
CoE	Council of Europe
CORINE	Coordinated Information on the European Environment
CP	Contracting Party
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Environment Agency
ENPI	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographic Information System
IOCE	Council of Europe Information Office
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
Rec.	Recommendation
Res.	Resolution
ToR	Terms of Reference