

Media Advisory

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Strasbourg, 06.08.2009

Azerbaijan: Launch of joint programme on biodiversity

Date: 11-13 August 2009

Location: Baku (Azerbaijan)

Organised by the Council of Europe and the European Commission in cooperation with Azerbaijan's Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

Description: The programme, which runs until the end of 2011, aims at identifying and protecting natural habitats to be part of the Emerald Network. The Emerald Network was set up under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and facilitates the establishment of national networks of protected areas. It concerns all contracting parties and observer states to the Convention.

Countries involved in the establishment of the network under the joint programme also include Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The objective set for Azerbaijan is to select areas representative of the country's species and habitat types, in line with the relevant recommendations and resolutions of the Bern Convention. Azerbaijan should identify all the potential areas by the end of the project. The first national workshop, in the form of a scientific meeting followed by a field visit to a potential Emerald site, will take place from 11 to 13 August.

The programme is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.

For further information, see www.coe.int/biodiversity/emerald

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