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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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

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7<sup>th</sup> meeting  
16-17 September 2015  
Council of Europe, Strasbourg,  
Palais de l'Europe, Room 8

**Extract from the list of decisions and adopted texts on the  
protection of habitats,  
at the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee  
of the Bern Convention**

*Document prepared by  
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

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## **5.5 Habitats**

### **5.5.1 Protected Areas and Ecological Networks**

- a. Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks and future work plan**
- b. Draft revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996) listing endangered natural habitats and draft Recommendation interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) listing the species requiring habitat conservation measures**

The Committee took note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks and expressed satisfaction for the steady progress in this field, particularly regarding the setting-up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.

The Committee took further note of the 203 areas proposed as Candidate Emerald sites by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the Russian Federation (the latter being sponsored by Belarus) and agreed to their official nomination.

Moreover, the Committee examined the proposal for a revision of Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996) listing endangered natural habitats requiring specific conservation measures, following both the process of harmonisation of the tools and methodologies used under the Emerald and Natura 2000 frameworks and the proposal of two additional habitats submitted by Switzerland.

Therefore the Committee adopted the Revised Annex I to Resolution No. 4 (1996) listing endangered natural habitats requiring specific conservation measures.

Furthermore, the Committee welcomed the proposal of the Group of Experts providing a clarified interpretation of certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998), and amended and adopted the following recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 172 (2014) interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) listing species requiring specific habitat conservation measures.

Finally, the Committee acknowledged the crucial technical and scientific support offered by the European Environment Agency and its European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity, in particular in relation to the release of the new Emerald Network Software, and expressed its deepest gratitude for this work.

### **5.5.2. European Diploma for Protected Areas**

- a. Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas and adopted Resolutions**
- b. Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: progress report**

The Committee took note of the report of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas, and congratulated the managers of the areas for their efforts in addressing the conditions and recommendations attached to this important recognition and monitoring tool.

The Committee further welcomed the progress in the preparation of the forthcoming celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Diploma, as an important opportunity for the re-launch of the award, and for reaffirming its intrinsic dynamic value as testified by its adaptation to the current framework for the conservation of the biological, geological, landscape and cultural diversity at the international, national and local levels.

In this respect, the Committee encouraged Parties to contribute to this event, and expressed its gratitude to Belgium and Italy for offering the hosting of the two major celebratory event.

Moreover, the Committee took note of the resolution adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers awarding the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Desertas Nature Reserve, and congratulated Portuguese authorities for this achievement.

The Committee welcomed the positive analysis made by the Group of Specialist on the European Diploma for Protected Areas and the Bureau of the Standing Committee confirming the exceptional European interest of the Karadag Nature Reserve (Ukraine) in respect of its candidature for the award of the Diploma.

Finally, the Committee took note of the revised regulations of the European Diploma for Protected Areas and, namely, of the new Model plan for annual reports to be submitted by the responsible authorities of the areas having received the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

**Appendix 1: Recommendation No. 172 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014, interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention**



Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

**Recommendation No. 172 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014, interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention**

The Standing Committee to 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 its 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 (ASCI);

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

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

Recalling its Resolution No. 6 (1998) listing the species requiring specific habitat conservation measures;

Recalling that forty-five species from Resolution No. 6 (1998) are marked with the sign (#) described as follows: *Conscious that some species listed may be abundant in parts of Europe and may not require specific habitat conservation measures everywhere, and marking those species with the sign (#);*

Recognising the need for clarifying the provision of Resolution No. 6 (1998) linked to the sign (#) and its possible use by Contracting Parties and Observer States working on the establishment of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest and its practical implementation;

Reminding that the *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* (T-PVS/PA (2013)13) describes the biogeographic process of sufficiency evaluation of national lists of proposed Emerald sites for the species and habitats listed in Resolutions No. 6 (1998) and No. 4 (1996);

Reminding that one of the purposes of the biogeographic evaluation is to establish a national reference list of species and habitats from Resolutions No. 6 (1998) and No. 4 (1996) present in a given country and for which that country holds a responsibility;

Recalling that during the biogeographic process, organised through a series of seminars, a consensus is sought between the main actors involved when debating the sufficiency of the proposed Emerald sites, on a species by species and habitat by habitat basis,

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

1. Inform in written the Secretariat of the Bern Convention when they consider that achieving a satisfactory conservation status of certain species marked with the sign (#) in Resolution No. 6 (1998) does not require the designation of ASCIs on their national territory;
2. Justify their considerations, using the information form provided in Annex 1 to this Recommendation, duly filled in with all required information (one form is to be submitted for each species concerned);
3. Agree that the question of the designation of ASCIs on their territory for the species concerned is evaluated during the biogeographical process organised for their country;
4. Submit, at each reporting exercise for the Emerald Network as foreseen by Resolution No. 8 (2012) of the Standing Committee, an updated information form for the species for which the biogeographical process officially concluded that a designation of ASCIs is not required.

**Appendix 1 to Recommendation No. 172 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014, interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention**

**INFORMATION FORM FOR CONTRACTING PARTIES AND OBSERVER STATES REQUESTING  
EXCEPTIONS TO THEIR NATIONAL REFERENCE LISTS (EMERALD NETWORK OF ASCIs)**

Please provide information on (at all appropriate levels, national, regional and local)<sup>1</sup>:

- 1) Contracting party submitting the request (including contact person for additional questions concerning this species)

- 2) Species name (from the list available in Annex 2 below)

- 3) Official national (and where relevant, regional and local) protection status, with reference to relevant laws

- 4) Detailed information on population size and distribution, including trends

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<sup>1</sup> Please add as many additional sheets as necessary.

5) Distribution (including distribution maps)

6) Information on (typical) habitats for the species and possible threats

7) Information on hunting/fishing/collecting/harvesting regulations (including information on quantity/quotas, etc.)

8) Conservation status (national, European and global levels)

9) Information on population management (including eventual Action Plan(s) targeting the species)



10) Information on international aspects, i.e. trans-boundary issues

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11) Justification of sustainable management, without a specific designation of Emerald sites

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12) Important references/literature/publications/webpages, relevant for the taxonomy, conservation status and geographical distribution

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**Appendix 2 to Recommendation No. 172 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014, interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention**

**List of species marked with the sign “#” in Annex I of Resolution No. 6 (1998)**

SPECIES NUMBER	TAXONOMIC GROUP	SPECIES NAME
1188	A	<i>Bombina bombina</i>
1193	A	<i>Bombina variegata</i>
1166	A	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>
1171	A	<i>Triturus karelinii</i>
A037	B	<i>Cygnus bewickii</i>
A038	B	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>
A098	B	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
A014	B	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>
A390	B	<i>Oceanodroma castro</i>
A140	B	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
1102	F	<i>Alosa alosa</i>
1989	F	<i>Alosa caspia vistonica</i>
1103	F	<i>Alosa fallax</i>
2490	F	<i>Alosa macedonica</i>
2491	F	<i>Alosa pontica</i>
1130	F	<i>Aspius aspius</i>
1149	F	<i>Cobitis taenia</i>
1113	F	<i>Coregonus oxyrhynchus</i>
1163	F	<i>Cottus gobio</i>
1099	F	<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>
1096	F	<i>Lampetra planeri</i>
1095	F	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
1134	F	<i>Rhodeus sericeus amarus</i>
1106	F	<i>Salmo salar</i>
1078	I	<i>Callimorpha quadripunctaria</i>
1911	M	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>
1352	M	<i>Canis lupus</i>
1337	M	<i>Castor fiber</i>
1912	M	<i>Gulo gulo</i>
1364	M	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
1355	M	<i>Lutra lutra</i>
1361	M	<i>Lynx lynx</i>
1340	M	<i>Microtus oeconomus arenicola</i>
1365	M	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>
1351	M	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
1910	M	<i>Pteromys volans</i>
1335	M	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>
2608	M	<i>Spermophilus suslicus</i>
1349	M	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
1354	M	<i>Ursus arctos</i>
1961	P	<i>Luzula arctica</i>
1969	P	<i>Primula scandinavica</i>
1528	P	<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>
1279	R	<i>Elaphe quatuorlineata</i>
1293	R	<i>Elaphe situla</i>

**Appendix 2: Revised Annex I to Resolution 4 (1996) of the Bern Convention on endangered natural habitat types using the EUNIS habitat classification**



Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

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

*(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 9 December 2010)*

**ENDANGERED NATURAL HABITAT TYPES**

<b>EUNIS code</b>	<b>EUNIS name</b>
A	Marine habitats
A1.11	Mussel and/or barnacle communities
A1.141	Association with <i>Lithophyllum byssoides</i>
A1.22	Mussels and fucoids on moderately exposed shores
A1.44	Communities of littoral caves and overhangs
A2.2	Littoral sand and muddy sand
A2.3	Littoral mud
A2.4	Littoral mixed sediments
A2.5	Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds
A2.61	Seagrass beds on littoral sediments
A2.621	<i>Eleocharis</i> beds
A2.72	Littoral mussel beds on sediment
A3	Infralittoral rock and other hard substrata
A4	Circalittoral rock and other hard substrata
A5	Sublittoral sediment
A6.911	Seeps in the deep-sea bed
B	Coastal habitats
B1.1	Sand beach driftlines
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
B2.1	Shingle beach driftlines
B2.3	Upper shingle beaches with open vegetation
B2.1	Shingle beach driftlines
B3.24	Unvegetated Baltic rocky shores and cliffs
B3.3	Rock cliffs, ledges and shores, with angiosperms
C	Inland surface waters
C1.1	Permanent oligotrophic lakes, ponds and pools
C1.222	Floating <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i> rafts
C1.223	Floating <i>Stratiotes aloides</i> rafts
C1.224	Floating <i>Utricularia australis</i> and <i>Utricularia vulgaris</i> colonies
C1.225	Floating <i>Salvinia natans</i> mats
C1.226	Floating <i>Aldrovanda vesiculosa</i> communities
C1.2416	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> beds
C1.24113	Transylvanian hot-spring lotus beds
C1.25	Charophyte submerged carpets in mesotrophic waterbodies
C1.32	Free-floating vegetation of eutrophic waterbodies
C1.33	Rooted submerged vegetation of eutrophic waterbodies
C1.3411	<i>Ranunculus</i> communities in shallow water
C1.3413	<i>Hottonia palustris</i> beds in shallow water
C1.4	Permanent dystrophic lakes, ponds and pools
C1.5	Permanent inland saline and brackish lakes, ponds and pools
C1.66	Temporary inland saline and brackish waters
C1.67	Turlough and lake-bottom meadows
C1.33	Rooted submerged vegetation of eutrophic waterbodies
C2.111	Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and springfens
C2.12	Hard water springs
C2.18	Acid oligotrophic vegetation of spring brooks
C2.19	Lime-rich oligotrophic vegetation of spring brooks
C2.1A	Mesotrophic vegetation of spring brooks
C2.1B	Eutrophic vegetation of spring brooks
C2.25	Acid oligotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams
C2.26	Lime-rich oligotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams
C2.27	Mesotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams
C2.28	Eutrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams
C2.33	Mesotrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers
C2.34	Eutrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers
C3.4	Species-poor beds of low-growing water-fringing or amphibious vegetation
C3.51	Euro-Siberian dwarf annual amphibious swards (but excluding C3.5131 Toad-rush swards)
C3.55	Sparsely vegetated river gravel banks
C3.62	Unvegetated river gravel banks
D	Mires, bogs and fens

D1.2	Blanket bogs
D2.226	Peri-Danubian black-white-star sedge fens
D2.3	Transition mires and quaking bogs
D3.1	Palsa mires
D3.2	Aapa mires
D3.3	Polygon 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
D5.2	Beds of large sedges normally without free-standing water
D6.1	Inland saltmarshes
D6.23	Interior Iberian salt pan meadows
E	Grasslands and lands dominated by forbs, mosses or lichens
E1.11	Euro-Siberian rock debris swards
E1.12	Euro-Siberian pioneer calcareous sand swards
E1.2	Perennial calcareous grassland and basic steppes
E1.3	Mediterranean xeric grassland
E1.55	Eastern sub-Mediterranean dry grassland
E1.71	<i>Nardus stricta</i> swards
E1.722	Boreo-arctic <i>Agrostis-Festuca</i> grasslands
E1.83	Mediterraneo-montane <i>Nardus stricta</i> swards
E1.9	Open non-Mediterranean dry acid and neutral grassland, including inland dune grassland
E1.B	Heavy-metal grassland
E2.15	Macaronesian mesic grassland
E2.2	Low and medium altitude hay meadows
E2.3	Mountain hay meadows
E3.1	Mediterranean tall humid grassland
E3.3	E3.3 Sub-mediterranean humid meadows
E3.4	Moist or wet eutropic and mesotrophic grassland
E3.5	Moist or wet oligotrophic grassland
E4.11	Boreo-alpine acidocline snow-patch grassland and herb habitats
E4.12	Boreo-alpine calcicline snow-patch grassland and herb habitats
E4.3	Acid alpine and subalpine grassland
E4.4	Calcareous alpine and subalpine grassland
E5.4	Moist or wet tall-herb and fern fringes and meadows
E5.5	Subalpine moist or wet tall-herb and fern stands
E6.1	Mediterranean inland salt steppes
E6.2	Continental inland salt steppes
E7.3	Dehesa
F	Heathland, scrub and tundra
F2.22	Alpine acidocline <i>Rhododendron</i> heaths
F2.26	<i>Bruckenthalia</i> heaths
F2.32	Subalpine and oroboreal <i>Salix</i> brush
F2.336	Rhodope <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> thickets
F2.41	Inner Alpine <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub
F2.42	Outer Alpine <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub
F2.43	Southwestern <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub

F2.44	Apennine <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub
F2.45	Hercynian <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub
F3.12	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> thickets
F3.16	<i>Juniperus communis</i> scrub
F3.21	Montane <i>Cytisus purgans</i> fields
F3.241	Central European subcontinental thickets
F3.245	Eastern Mediterranean deciduous thickets
F3.247	Ponto-Sarmatic deciduous thickets
F4.1	Wet heaths
F4.2	Dry heaths
F4.3	Macaronesian heaths
F5.13	Juniper matorral
F5.171	Iberian arid zone <i>Ziziphus matorral</i>
F5.18	<i>Laurus nobilis</i> matorral
F5.516	<i>Laurus</i> thickets
F5.517	Coastal <i>Helichrysum garrigues</i>
F5.51G	Tall spiny broom brush
F5.52	<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i> formations
F5.53	<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanica</i> -dominated garrigues
F5.54	<i>Chamaerops humilis</i> brush
F5.55	Mediterranean pre-desert scrub
F5.56	Thermo-Mediterranean broom fields (retamares)
F5.5B	Cabo de Sao Vicente brushes
F6.7	Mediterranean gypsum scrubs
F6.8	Xero-halophile scrubs
F7	Spiny Mediterranean heaths (phrygana, hedgehog-heaths and related coastal cliff vegetation)
F9.1	Riverine scrub
F9.3	Southern riparian galleries and thickets
G	Woodland, forest and other wooded land
G1.11	Riverine <i>Salix</i> woodland
G1.12	Boreo-alpine riparian galleries
G1.13	Southern <i>Alnus</i> and <i>Betula</i> galleries
G1.21	Riverine <i>Fraxinus</i> - <i>Alnus</i> woodland, wet at high but not at low water
G1.22	Mixed <i>Quercus</i> - <i>Ulmus</i> - <i>Fraxinus</i> woodland of great rivers
G1.3	Mediterranean riparian woodland
G1.4115	Eastern Carpathian <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> swamp woods
G1.414	Steppe swamp <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> woods
G1.44	Wet-ground woodland of the Black and Caspian Seas
G1.51	Sphagnum <i>Betula</i> woods
G1.6	<i>Fagus</i> woodland
G1.7	Thermophilous deciduous woodland
G1.8	Acidophilous <i>Quercus</i> -dominated woodland
G1.917	Oroboreal <i>Betula</i> woods and thickets
G1.918	Eurasian boreal <i>Betula</i> woods

G1.925	Boreal <i>Populus tremula</i> woods
G1.A1	<i>Quercus</i> - <i>Fraxinus</i> - <i>Carpinus betulus</i> woodland on eutrophic and mesotrophic soils
G1.A4	Ravine and slope woodland
G1.A7	Mixed deciduous woodland of the Black and Caspian Seas
G1.B3	Boreal and boreonemoral <i>Alnus</i> woods
G2	Broadleaved evergreen woodland
G3.134	Holy Cross fir forests
G3.15	Southern Apennine <i>Abies alba</i> forests
G3.16	Moesian <i>Abies alba</i> forests
G3.17	Balkano-Pontic <i>Abies</i> forests
G3.19	<i>Abies pinsapo</i> forests
G3.1B	Alpine and Carpathian subalpine <i>Picea</i> forests
G3.1C	Inner range montane <i>Picea</i> forests
G3.1D	Hercynian subalpine <i>Picea</i> forests
G3.1E	Southern European <i>Picea abies</i> forests
G3.1F	Enclave <i>Picea abies</i> forests
G3.1G	<i>Picea omorika</i> forests
G3.1H	<i>Picea orientalis</i> forests
G3.21	Eastern Alpine siliceous <i>Larix</i> and <i>Pinus cembra</i> forests
G3.22	Eastern Alpine calcicolous <i>Larix</i> and <i>Pinus cembra</i> forests
G3.25	Carpathian <i>Larix</i> and <i>Pinus cembra</i> forests
G3.26	<i>Larix polonica</i> forests
G3.31	<i>Pinus uncinata</i> forests with <i>Rhododendron ferrugineum</i>
G3.32	Xerocline <i>Pinus uncinata</i> forests
G3.41	Caledonian forest
G3.4232	Sarmatic steppe <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests
G3.4233	Carpathian steppe <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> woods
G3.4234	Pannonic steppe <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> woods
G3.43	Inner-Alpine Ononis steppe forests
G3.44	Alpine Spring heath <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests
G3.4E	Ponto-Caucasian <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests
G3.5	<i>Pinus nigra</i> woodland (but excluding G3.57 : <i>Pinus nigra</i> reforestation)
G3.6	Subalpine mediterranean <i>Pinus</i> woodland
G3.7	Lowland to montane mediterranean <i>Pinus</i> woodland (excluding <i>Pinus nigra</i> )
G3.8	Canary Island <i>Pinus canariensis</i> woodland
G3.9	Coniferous woodland dominated by <i>Cupressaceae</i> or <i>Taxaceae</i>
G3.A	<i>Picea</i> taiga woodland
G3.B	<i>Pinus</i> taiga 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
H2.1	Cold siliceous screes
H2.2	Cold limestone screes
H2.3	Temperate-montane acid siliceous screes

H2.4	Temperate-montane calcareous and ultra-basic screes
H2.5	Acid siliceous screes of warm exposures
H2.6	Calcareous and ultra-basic screes of warm exposures
H3.1	Acid siliceous inland cliffs
H3.2	Basic and ultra-basic inland cliffs
H3.511	Limestone pavements
H4.2	Ice caps and true glaciers
H4.3	Rock glaciers and unvegetated ice-dominated moraines
H6	Recent volcanic features
X	Habitat complexes
X01	Estuaries
X02	Saline coastal lagoons
X03	Brackish coastal lagoons
X04	Raised bog complexes
X09	Pasture woods (with a tree layer overlying pasture)
X18	Wooded steppe
X29	Salt lake islands
X35	Inland Sand Dunes