



Strasbourg, 04 September 2015
[pa12e_2015.doc]

T-PVS/PA (2015) 12

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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

7th meeting
16-17 September 2015
Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France
Palais de l'Europe, Room 8

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION
ON THE GUIDELINES ON MANAGING THE EMERALD SITES, INCLUDING CLIMATE
CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION**

*Document established
by the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

*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.*



Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

**Recommendation No. (2015) of the Standing Committee, adopted on, on the on the
Guidelines on managing the Emerald sites, including climate change adaptation and
mitigation**

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;

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. 8 (2012) on the national designation of adopted Emerald sites and the
implementation of management, monitoring and reporting;

Recalling recommendations No. 122 (2006) of the Standing Committee on the conservation of biological
diversity in the context of climate change; No. 135 (2008) and No. 143 (2009) on addressing the impacts of
climate change on biodiversity; No. 145 (2010) on guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change in
mountain regions; No. 146 (2010) on guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change in European
islands and No. 147 (2010) on guidance for Parties on wildland fires, biodiversity and climate change;

Recalling the CBD Conference of the Parties Decision X/31 on Protected Areas, which invites Parties to
*further develop tools applicable for use by relevant national authorities and stakeholders for the planning of
protected-area networks and climate-change mitigation and adaptation measures, that combine among other
issues, biodiversity, natural carbon storage and other ecosystem services and as appropriate, vulnerability
assessments for terrestrial as well as marine and coastal protected areas;*

Welcoming the considerable efforts deployed by Parties on the implementation of the Calendar for the
implementation of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (2011-2020) adopted in
December 2010, which commits Contracting Parties and Observer states to the Bern Convention to the
completion of the Emerald Network constitution process by 2020;

Recognising the work of the European Union and its Member States on the development of the Natura 2000
Network and their current efforts on improving the management of the Network and achieving a favourable
conservation status for threatened species and habitats, including with regards to climate change adaptation
and mitigation;

Recognising that climate change affects the long-term survival of threatened species and habitats of
Resolution 6 (1998) and Resolution 4 (1996) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, for which

Contracting Parties and Observer States are identifying and designating Areas of Special Conservation Interest of the Emerald Network on their territories;

Acknowledging that the Areas of Special Conservation Interest of the Emerald Network should represent an essential part of an integrated framework of responses to climate change;

Conscious that the long-term effectiveness of the Emerald Network in achieving its objectives depends on its capacity to mitigate climate change effects on the Emerald sites biodiversity;

Noting that climate change impacts on protected areas require to be addressed at the planning stage of the management of the areas and involve that adaptation is fully integrated in the priorities and objectives of the management measures;

Bearing in mind that although Contracting Parties and Observer States are currently working on different phases of the constitution process of the Emerald Network, planning of the designation of the Emerald sites and their management measures is a common concern;

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

1. Prepare a long term vision for the management of their candidate Emerald sites and Emerald sites, which takes into account climate change impacts and proposes actions and measures to adapt and mitigate these impacts;
2. Ensure that the vision for the management of the Emerald Network sites is coherent with their national biodiversity strategies and is embedded across other sectors of local development and taken into account when formulating strategies for those sectors;
3. Ensure that the designation of the Emerald sites on their territory and their management measures functionally link the sites with their surrounding landscapes in order to improve their permeability;
4. Take the necessary steps to ensure the effective involvement of stakeholders into the designation, management planning and implementation of the management measures for the Emerald sites;
5. Take steps towards improving cooperation with their neighbouring countries for strengthening the transboundary effectiveness of their national Emerald Network sites.
6. Use, as appropriate, the Guidelines on managing the Emerald sites available in Annex 1 to this recommendation.

APPENDIX I

Draft Guidelines on managing the Emerald sites, with respect to climate change adaptation and mitigation