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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

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**PRIORITIES FOR THE STRATEGIC
DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION**

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INTRODUCTORY MEMORANDUM

STRATEGIC APPROACHES FOR ADAPTING THE BERN CONVENTION TO THE NEW GLOBAL TARGETS FOR BIODIVERSITY FOR 2020 – CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (AICHI/NAGOYA 2010)

FOREWORD

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya in 2010 sets out a ten-year framework for action by all countries and stakeholders to save biodiversity and enhance its benefits for people.

The approach is based on a series of 20 objectives, the “Aichi Targets” (**APPENDIX 1**), divided between five strategic goals:

- Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society;
- Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use;
- Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity;
- Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

The purpose of this report is to recommend strategic approaches to enable the Parties to the Bern Convention to bring their action into line with these global targets and contribute to achieving them.

INTRODUCTION

The aims of the Bern Convention are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the co-operation of several states, and to promote such co-operation (Art. 1).

Since the late 1970s, the parties to the Convention have carried out very many activities in this context in line with these aims and in keeping with the treaty in order “*to maintain the population of wild flora and fauna at, or adapt it to, a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements*” (Art. 2).

Since 1995, the measures have been part of a pan-European approach developed under a strategy called the *Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS)*, which is based on six objectives:

- the establishment of a Pan-European Ecological Network to conserve ecosystems, habitats, species and landscapes that are of European importance;
- the sustainable management and use of Europe’s biodiversity;
- integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainability into the activities of other sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, industry, transport and tourism;
- improving information on and awareness of biodiversity and increasing public participation in conservation actions;
- improving our understanding of the state of Europe’s biodiversity;

- ensuring that adequate funds are made available to implement the strategy.

The fifth and most recent Intergovernmental Conference on Biodiversity held in Liège in Belgium in 2009 as part of the implementation of the PEBLDS produced five forward-looking conclusions designed to encourage debate about the challenges to be taken up in general to stem the loss of biodiversity, including in Europe. The aims were:

- **changing the current worldview** of civil society regarding biodiversity and communicating the interdependence between social and ecological systems;
- **improving the knowledge base** from the point of view of mobilising existing knowledge and co-ordinating related research efforts, as well as management of biodiversity, including ecosystem services;
- **creating room for adaptive co-management** in order to stimulate social learning and innovation, build trust and support resilience of social-ecological systems;
- **supporting capacity building and flexible institutions**, in particular by deepening efforts in participatory research and developing extension services;
- **dealing with uncertainty and surprise** through more flexible governance arrangements and co-ordinated actions between, and networking of, players.

It is against this general background that the States Parties to the Bern Convention must work to promote biodiversity, while seeking to:

- respond to the recent measures to revive the Council of Europe, which saw the organisation in 2011 rearrange its activities in three thematic/operational pillars of **human rights, the rule of law and democracy**;
- optimise the achievements of over thirty years of efforts to conserve European wildlife and natural habitats.

BERN CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

There would be no point in trying to give a comprehensive overview of the activities to promote biodiversity conducted to date by the Bern Convention given their great number and how varied they have been over the last 30 years.

Since entering into force, the Bern Convention has produced a significant number of guidelines and standards in varying forms such as action plans, strategies, codes of conduct and over 150 decisions, recommendations and resolutions, which in one way or another have sought to improve biodiversity conservation and thereby support European countries in meeting their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity.¹

These close ties between the two instruments have also been reflected in the signing of agreements between their respective secretariats designed to facilitate co-operation between them and optimise their efforts in support of the shared objective of conserving biodiversity.² The institutional co-operation between the two instruments provides for co-ordination of the activity programmes of the two secretariats and the conduct of joint actions to promote biodiversity conservation.

Overall, the activities of the Bern Convention are divided into five main areas geared towards the latter:

- monitoring of the legal application of the Convention;
- monitoring species and natural habitats and improving their conservation status;
- integrating sectoral policies in biodiversity conservation;
- developing the Emerald network;

¹ T-PVS/Inf (2012) 4.

² Memorandum of co-operation of 13 March 2001.

- the European Diploma of Protected Areas.

These areas of action were the basis for the Convention activity programmes in recent years, including for the period 2012-2013.³ It is proposed that the Bern Convention's strategy for helping to achieve the Aichi Targets also be based on these same pillars.

WHAT STRATEGIC APPROACHES IN RESPONSE TO THE NEW GLOBAL TARGETS?

The strategic approaches must (1) optimise the action of the Convention and (2) foster synergies and seek areas of complementarity between the activities of the Bern Convention and the commitments made in Aichi by the European Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Optimising the action of the Bern Convention

To respond properly here, it is important to underline the Bern Convention's **comparative advantages**, which concern both its geographic and its material scope. It is also necessary to ensure the greatest possible **added value** in its action, in keeping with the address by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the Committee of Ministers on 16 February 2011.

Its comparative advantages

These are based on **five main strengths**:

- an **area of action** covering the pan-European region and part of Africa, where the Convention is well established and creates de facto links among the States Parties;
- an extensive **material scope** covering biodiversity as a whole (terrestrial, aquatic and marine), unlike specialised instruments confined to particular activities, species or habitats;
- **targeted activity themes** connected with biodiversity which the Convention has addressed for many years, in particular protected areas, ecological networks, species action plans, ecosystem conservation, invasive species, climate change and integrating sectoral policies;
- a **well-established network of high-level scientific and technical experts** in each of these areas, currently divided into nine groups: amphibians and reptiles, plants, birds, invertebrates, protected areas and ecological networks, invasive alien species, large carnivores, climate change and European islands;
- **plus a network of 70 protected areas awarded the Council of Europe diploma**, located in 26 countries, and the related **managers**.

This means the Bern Convention is in a particularly favourable position when it comes to implementing the decisions taken in Aichi.

Its added value

This could stem from a general **vision** of the States Parties, wishing to **minimise the strongest pressures on biodiversity in Europe**.

From this could flow a **general objective of reducing the fragmentation of natural habitats**, which has been shown to be the main source of pressure on natural habitats and hence on biodiversity in Europe.

This general objective could be divided into **four specific objectives**, tying in with the targets adopted in Aichi and focused on what over the years has become the Bern Convention's core activity:

- **reducing** the direct pressures on biodiversity;
- **using** biological resources sustainably;
- **preserving** ecosystems and species;
- **improving** responses to biodiversity degradation.

³ T-PVS (2011) 12.

These specific objectives should be achieved through measures covering **five cross-sectoral fields of action**:

- the conservation status of species and natural habitats, especially those which are endangered and/or vulnerable in Europe;
- the management of protected areas of particular importance to Europe, especially areas of special conservation interest and areas awarded the Council of Europe diploma;
- the development of ecological networks, in particular the Emerald Network;
- the integration of public policies with a high environmental footprint, especially agriculture, spatial development and transport, and tourism;
- raising awareness among civil society and communication.

It is mainly in these strategic fields of action that the Bern Convention is best able to make the most significant contribution to implementing the Aichi Targets, alongside the efforts of the other players.

Synergies and areas of complementarity

The ideas above are summarised in **APPENDIX 2**. They are merely guidelines and their sole purpose at present is to facilitate the Standing Committee's discussions in November 2012.

The synergies and areas of complementarity between the action of the Bern Convention and the work done to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity's strategic plan for 2010-2011, "**Living in Harmony with Nature**", should lead in each of the strategic areas of action concerned to the implementation of **operational activity programmes**, including some where the Bern Convention has already made significant progress over the past years, which must be consolidated and adapted more directly to the Aichi Targets.

Proposals are also made for activities to give the strategy effect in the medium term; they are based on the Bern Convention's ongoing action programmes, which have been **reinterpreted in the context in question**.

CONCLUSION

On the whole, these proposals should help to **increase the clarity** of the Bern Convention's action to conserve biodiversity in Europe and also to **maximise the effectiveness** of its action.

They have been devised as a **regional response** to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets adopted by the States Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

APPENDIX 1

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS (AICHI 2010)

TARGETS		CONTENT	DEADLINE
1		People are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	2020
2		Biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	2020
3		Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimise or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions.	2020
4		Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	2020
5		The rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	2020
6		All fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	2020
7		Areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	2020
8		Pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.	2020
9		Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	2020
10		The multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimised, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	2015
11		At least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.	2020
12		The extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	2020
13		The genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimising genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.	2020

14		Ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	2020
15		Ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	2020
16		The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.	2015
17		Each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	2015
18		The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	2020
19		Knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	2020
20		The mobilisation of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 from all sources and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilisation should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resources needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	2020

APPENDIX 2**STRATEGIC APPROACHES FOR ADAPTING THE BERN CONVENTION TO
THE NEW GLOBAL TARGETS FOR BIODIVERSITY FOR 2020 –
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (AICHI/ NAGOYA 2010)****VISION****MINIMISING THE STRONGEST PRESSURES ON BIODIVERSITY IN EUROPE**

Biodiversity conservation covers a vast range of issues demanding very many types of responses which the States Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are seeking to provide for the period from 2010 to 2020 by implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity adopted in Nagoya in Japan in 2010.

The difficulties encountered by European countries, in particular EU members, in halting the erosion of biodiversity over the last 15 years show that it is necessary to **(1)** strengthen ongoing biodiversity preservation policies and programmes, in particular actions aimed at preserving ecosystem services, **(2)** prioritise action and focus these policies and programmes on the most serious problems behind the underlying decline in biodiversity and, as a general rule, **(3)** mainstream biodiversity conservation in national economies.

This strategy reflects the belief of the Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention that the preservation of biodiversity contributes to the values of the Council of Europe by helping to promote European identity in its unity and diversity, encouraging dialogue between states and facilitating conflict prevention and reconciliation.

It seeks to facilitate the achievement of the Aichi Targets and underpin the ways and means set out in the related Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for 2010-2020 in the pan-European context, where fragmentation of habitats is regarded as one of the main sources of biodiversity erosion.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE			
REDUCING THE FRAGMENTATION OF NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL HABITATS IN EUROPE			
Rationale			
<p>The fragmentation of natural and semi-natural habitats is regarded as one of the main sources of biodiversity erosion in Europe; it results from the presence of physical barriers⁴ which are increasing in number and are difficult for animal and plant species to cross;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thereby disrupting or in some cases interrupting the proper functioning of their biological cycles; • and accordingly reducing the area of non-fragmented natural and semi-natural habitats. <p>This can also fragment animal and plant populations beyond their resilience levels and lead to their reduction or extinction.</p> <p>The preservation of these habitats and their ecological continuity is a vital part of the preservation of the physical, chemical and biological processes that ensure the proper functioning of ecosystems and the conservation of ecosystem goods and services for the well-being of humankind.</p>			
Aims			
<p>The aim of the strategy is to stop the erosion of flora and fauna species, especially those deemed to be endangered or vulnerable, through measures which help to maintain a good conservation status for them, or restore such a status, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preventing any new fragmentation of natural and semi-natural habitats in Europe, in particular in areas of special biodiversity conservation interest and areas awarded the Council of Europe diploma; • reducing current fragmentation with a view to maintaining as far as possible or, if necessary, restoring their ecological continuity. <p>This general objective is divided into four specific objectives.</p>			
SO 1 – REDUCING DIRECT PRESSURES ON BIODIVERSITY			
Action programmes	Main Aichi targets concerned	Aim	Activities
<p>AP 1 – Integration of sectoral policies</p>		<p>Manage socioeconomic activities and uses sustainably so as to reduce their impacts on biodiversity.⁵</p>	<p>Operational sub-programme 1 – Sustainable agriculture: Supporting action (1) to combat agriculture-related pollution⁶ and (2) support sustainable agriculture,⁷ through any appropriate legislative and</p>

⁴ In particular, linear infrastructure built on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

⁵ Cf. Rec. 25 (1991) and Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the Convention.

⁶ In particular, Rec no. 141 (2009).

⁷ In particular, Res. 1794 (2011) and Rec (2002) 1. Also Rec. 153 (2011).

		<p>technical measures, primarily in sensitive mountain, island and coastal habitats.</p> <p>Operational sub-programme 2 – Sustainable forestry: supporting the preservation of forest fauna and flora species, primarily endangered or vulnerable species located in areas of special conservation interest and areas awarded the Council of Europe diploma, through action of all kinds designed to (1) identify the processes affecting the relevant species, (2) monitor the development of the species and processes regularly and (3) develop and implement management methods suited to the preservation of the forest habitats concerned or, if necessary, their restoration, primarily in sensitive mountain, island and coastal habitats.</p> <p>Operational sub-programme 3 – Green infrastructure and transport: support the</p>
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⁸ In particular, Rec (2002) 1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent.

⁹ In particular, European Regional/Spatial Planning Charter, Torremolinos, Spain, 1983.

¹⁰ By analogy with the programme launched by the Council of Europe in 1987 to promote cultural routes (cf. in particular Res. [CM/Res\(2007\)12](#) and Res. CM/Res(2010)53). Cf. also R. (94)7, (95)10, (97)9 and (99)16, as well as Rec. 1630 (2003) and Rec. no. 153 (2011).

¹¹ Eg, enlarged partial agreement.

¹² Eg, support for the development of multilateral co-operation projects, strengthening of networks (eg, managers of areas of special conservation interest and diploma-holding protected areas) and organisations in charge of projects, identification and dissemination of examples of best practice, development of tourist services, training and capacity building for nature route operators.

			<p>development (1) of trans-European “green infrastructure” compatible with the maintenance of ecological connectivity at pan-European level⁸, in particular in rural areas⁹ and (2) measures of any kind designed to reduce the impact of spatial development and transport on biodiversity.</p> <p>Operational sub-programme 4 – Nature routes and tourism: supporting the use of biodiversity for tourist purposes (1) through the establishment of nature routes, primarily in areas of special conservation interest¹⁰ and areas awarded the Council of Europe diploma, and (2) through any measures, both legislative¹¹ and technical,¹² to promote such routes.</p>
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SO 2 - USING BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES SUSTAINABLY			
Action programmes	Main Aichi targets concerned	Aim	Activities
<p>AP 1 - Ecological monitoring of problem or at-risk sites and populations¹³</p>		<p>Improve measures to control and combat invasive alien species.</p>	<p>Operational sub-programme 1 – Invasive alien species and rural economies: supporting efforts to combat by all appropriate means (eg, codes of conduct) the use and spread of invasive alien animal¹⁴ and plant species in the pan-European region, (1) primarily in rural areas and (2) in connection with related activities (agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, fishing and fish</p>

¹³ In particular, “European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species” (Nature and Environment, No. 161).

¹⁴ In particular, Rec. 139 (2009).

			<p>farming, biofuels, botanic gardens and zoos, pets, ornamental plants, industry, transport, etc).¹⁵</p> <p>Operational sub-programme 2 – Invasive alien species and island or isolated habitats:¹⁶ supporting (1) the implementation of the Charter on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in European Islands,¹⁷ (2) in particular the special precautionary measures designed to prevent the accidental introduction of invasive alien species on islands and in isolated ecosystems through tourism, trade, travel and transport.¹⁸</p>
<p>AP 2 – Improving biodiversity use practices</p>		<p>Adopt charters and codes of conduct to promote the sustainable use of biological resources and ecosystem services.</p>	<p>Operational sub-programme 1 – Knowledge of socio-ecological systems and use of biological resources: supporting (1) improvements in knowledge in terms of assessing the resilience of socio-ecological systems in Europe in accordance with political, institutional, social and economic contexts, and (2) monitoring of development trends in these systems.¹⁹</p> <p>Operational sub-programme 2 – Preservation and use of ecosystem services: supporting (1) improvements in knowledge of the ecological bases of ecosystem service delivery applied to natural and semi-natural habitats at pan-European level, and (2) methods for evaluating these services at all appropriate levels (regional, national and local).²⁰</p>

¹⁵ In particular, T-PVS/Inf (2012) 5 and Rec. 141 (2009).

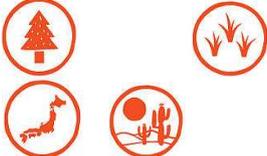
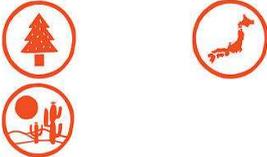
¹⁶ In particular, Rec. 91 (2002), [T-PVS/Inf \(2011\) 08](#) and [T-PVS/Inf \(2011\) 09](#).

¹⁷ [T-PVS/Inf \(2011\) 08](#).

¹⁸ [T-PVS/Inf \(2011\) 09](#) and Rec. 91 (2002).

¹⁹ In particular, STRACO (2009) Inf.2.

²⁰ See above.

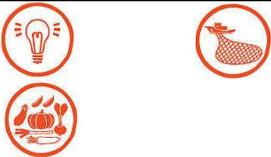
SO 3 – PRESERVING ECOSYSTEMS AND SPECIES			
Action programmes	Main Aichi targets concerned	Aim	Activities
AP 1 – Developing ecological networks		Strengthen the European Ecological Network and improve the preservation of Europe's biological heritage, in particular through the establishment of the Emerald network of areas of special conservation interest.	<p>Operational sub-programme 1 – Support for the establishment of the European Ecological Network: supporting (1) the implementation of the EU green infrastructure initiative by promoting action aimed at setting up national ecological networks and (2) the development of functional indicators and other measures for monitoring their medium and long-term development.</p> <p>Operational sub-programme 2 – Finalising and securing the Emerald Network:²¹ supporting (1) the finalisation of phase 1 and implementation of phase 2 of the Emerald project by encouraging the designation of areas of special interest, including outside protected areas and in marine habitats, and (2) the securing of the conservation status of these areas by promoting sustainable management of their biodiversity, using any appropriate means.</p> <p>Operational sub-programme 3 – Development and management of a European network of marine protected areas:²² supporting the establishment of such a network in conformity with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in co-operation with regional conventions²³ and relevant networks.²⁴</p>
AP 2– Developing and monitoring the network of protected areas awarded the Council of Europe diploma		Prevent the depletion of outstanding natural habitats in Europe and keep them functioning ecologically by drawing on the	<p>Operational sub-programme 1 – Extension and monitoring of the network of diploma-holding protected areas: supporting (1) the extension of the network to types of habitats and geographical regions of exceptional pan-European interest that are underrepresented or not represented,</p>

²¹ Cf. Rec. 3 (1996) and Rec. 16 (1989), also T-PVS/PA (2008) 08Rev.

²² T-PVS/Inf (2012) 10.

²³ Eg, OSPAR Barcelona, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, etc.

²⁴ Eg, Medpan.

		network of protected areas awarded the diploma.	<p>including marine habitats, and new applications, and (2) the exemplary management of diploma-holding protected areas within the meaning of the diploma regulations,²⁵ while seeking to ensure that they contribute both to biodiversity preservation and to local socioeconomic development.</p> <p>Operational sub-programme 2 – Capitalising on the network of diploma-holding protected areas with a view to sustainable development in Europe: supporting (1) the promotion of the values, ideals and principles of the Council of Europe through the diploma-holding protected areas and (2) the establishment of a permanent exchange, information and communication platform for the managers of these areas with a view to facilitating this use for sustainable development purposes.²⁶</p>
<p>AP 3 – Development and implementation of action plans for endangered species</p>		<p>Monitor the implementation of action plans, develop recommendations for the management of populations, including in communication terms.</p>	<p>Operational sub-programme 1 – Conservation of animal species</p> <p>OSP 1.1 – Large carnivores: supporting (1) the development of national action plans for large carnivores in general and bears, wolves and lynxes in particular, and (2) the implementation of appropriate measures for managing the populations,²⁷ including improving knowledge of their conservation status and their expansion with a view to securing their genetic diversity.²⁸</p> <p>OSP 1.2 - Birds: supporting (1) the development and implementation by the Contracting Parties of national action plans for endangered or vulnerable bird species, (2) the ending of unlawful catching or killing of birds²⁹ and (3) the reduction of other man-made sources of destruction and disruption,³⁰ including</p>

²⁵ Res. CM/ResDip (2008)1.

²⁶ In particular, EMC2I, 2007 – Report on prospects for the development of the European Diploma of Protected Areas, May 2007, contract no. 50/07, 9 p.

²⁷ Eg, Rec. 115 (2005) and Rec. 137 (2008).

²⁸ In particular, T-PVS (2012) 7.

²⁹ In particular, T-PVS (2011) 9 and Rec. 5 (1986).

³⁰ Eg, Recs. 109 and 113 (2004) and Recs. 107 and 108 (2003).

			<p>wind turbines³¹ and other energy generation³² and transport infrastructure.³³</p> <p>OSP 1.3 – Reptiles and amphibians: supporting (1) the development and implementation by the Contracting Parties of national action plans for reptile and amphibian species endangered in Europe,³⁴ and (2) measures to protect their habitats,³⁵ in particular marine turtle nesting beaches.³⁶</p> <p>OSP 4 – Invertebrates: supporting the implementation by the Contracting Parties of the European Strategy for the Conservation of Invertebrates,³⁷ primarily in the areas of (1) improving scientific knowledge, (2) the impacts of invasive alien species (cf. Programme AP 1) and (3) climate change (cf. Programme AP 4).</p> <p>OSP 1.5 – Fish: supporting the development and implementation by the Contracting Parties of national action plans for endangered or vulnerable fish species, in particular <i>acipenseridae</i>³⁸ and some <i>percidae</i>.³⁹</p> <p>Operational sub-programme 2 – Plant conservation: supporting the implementation by the Contracting Parties of the European Strategy for Plant Conservation (2008-2014)⁴⁰ and the achievement of its five objectives, in particular the development and implementation of national action plans for the conservation of plants, including fungi.⁴¹</p>
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³¹ Eg, Rec. 144 (2009), Rec. 130 (2007), Rec. 117 (2005), Rec. 109 (2004).

³² Eg, Rec. 112 (2004).

³³ Eg, Recs. 110 and 112 (2004).

³⁴ Cf. T-PVS/Inf (2005) 01 to 3 revE.

³⁵ In particular, Rec. 119 (2006), Recs. 26 and 27 (1991) and Rec. 13 (1988).

³⁶ Eg, Rec. 95 (2002), Rec. 66 (1998), Recs. 63 and 64 (1997), Rec. 54 (1996), Recs 24 and 26 (1991), Recs 12 and 13 (1988), Recs 8 and 9 (1987).

³⁷ Cf. Nature and Environment, No. 145 (Council of Europe Publishing).

³⁸ Eg, Rec. 127 (2007) and T-PVS/Inf (2007) 04revE, as well as Rec 116 (2005) and T-PVS/Inf (2005) 21E.

³⁹ Eg, *Zingel asper* (Cf. T-PVS/Files (2012) 21).

⁴⁰ Cf. T-PVS/Inf (2008) 14E and Rec. 138 (2008) and Rec. 49 (1996).

⁴¹ Eg, Rec. 132 (2007).

AP 4 – Biodiversity and global climate change		<p>Recommendations with a view to the development of measures for adapting to climate change so as to reduce its impact on species and habitats protected under the Bern Convention.</p>	<p>Operational sub-programme 1 – Climate change and mountain, island and marine habitats:⁴²⁴³ supporting (1) the implementation by the Contracting Parties of any measures to mainstream biodiversity conservation in processes (eg, strategies, policies, programmes and projects) for adapting to climate change,⁴⁴ (2) the promotion of best practice in this area, and (3) the regular monitoring of responses by animal and plant species to climate change, primarily in mountain, island and marine habitats.</p>
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SO 4 - IMPROVING RESPONSES TO BIODIVERSITY DEGRADATION			
Action programmes	Main Aichi targets concerned	Aim	Activities
AP 1- Harmonisation of biodiversity legislation in Europe		<p>Review of progress achieved under the Bern Convention and recommendations for the future.</p>	<p>Operational sub-programme 1 – Promoting the Bern Convention at pan-European level: supporting (1) the accession of new states to the Convention, (2) the drafting of national legislation compatible with its provisions and (3) harmonisation of legislation at pan-European level.</p> <p>Operational sub-programme 2 – Monitoring the application of the provisions of the Convention in the Contracting Parties: monitoring (1) actual compliance with the Convention by the Contracting Parties,⁴⁵ (2) performing legal analyses of its implementation in the Contracting Parties and (3) the files opened on vulnerable sites and populations and in emergency</p>

⁴² Rec. 145 (2010).

⁴³ Rec. 152 (2011), Rec. 271 and 1883 (2009) and Rec. 1630 (2003), Res. 1794 (2011) and Res. 1693 (2009).

⁴⁴ In particular, Rec. 143 (2009) and Rec. 135 (2008).

⁴⁵ Cf. Rec. 1964 (2011).

			<p>situations, in particular by setting up ad hoc groups and using mediation.</p>
<p>AP 2 – Raising awareness and profile</p>		<p>Raise public and government awareness of biodiversity values and the need to use them sustainably with a view to changing worldviews, improving the knowledge base and fostering adaptive co-management of ecosystem goods and services.⁴⁶</p> <p>Raise the profile of the Bern Convention.</p>	<p>Operational sub-programme 1 – Communication: (1) conducting awareness-raising activities on the importance of biodiversity conservation in Europe and the usefulness of the Convention and (2) supporting the holding of events and the publication of media on the need to conserve biodiversity in Europe, in particular because of its characteristics, functions and values, including from the socioeconomic point of view, and on methods for managing and using it sustainably.⁴⁷</p>

St Cergue, 5 October 2012.

⁴⁶ Cf. STRACO (2009) Inf. 2 and Art. 3 and 14 of the Convention.

⁴⁷ Art. 3 of the Convention.