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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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

3rd meeting
19 – 20 September 2011
Council of Europe, Strasbourg,
Room 6

**DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME AND
BUDGET OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON PROTECTED AREAS AND ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS
FOR 2012 -2013**

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

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1. Conservation of natural habitats

Long-term aim

Conservation of natural habitats and implementation of Article 4 of the Convention, as well as of Resolutions (89) 1, (96) 3, (96) 4, (98) 5, (98) 6 and Recommendations (89) 14, (89) 15 and (89) 16 of the Standing Committee.

Medium-term aim

Setting-up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI) in Europe, and developing the Pan-European Ecological Network.

Short-term aim

The development of the Emerald Network provides the participating countries with an important instrument for identifying and monitoring areas of special conservation interest being of the Pan-European importance in their national territories. It is also a tool to assist Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under the Bern Convention and the CBD, particularly new CBD Aichi targets, e.g. on terrestrial and marine protected areas, endangered species, invasive alien species, etc.. It further prepares non EU Member States to meet the requirements of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives in view of a possible future accession.

In 2012, efforts will focus on the scientific assessment and validation of data provided by Contracting Parties which have completed Phase I of the Emerald Network constitution process (6 South-eastern Europe countries), in view of their future presentation to the Standing Committee for analysis and possible adoption. A new joint Council of Europe/European Commission project is under discussion to be implemented as from 2013 in 7 Central and Eastern European countries, and the South Caucasus, as a follow-up to the joint programme implemented in 2009-2011 in the region.

Co-ordination with the EU and the European Environment Agency will continue focussing on the harmonisation of the Natura 2000 and the Emerald networks, in view of strengthening the future Pan-European Ecological Network and maintain European natural heritage.

Funding

Council of Europe and voluntary contributions. A regional joint-project financed by the European Union.

Methods

Evaluation of ongoing projects; technical meetings at national/regional level; groups of experts and/or consultants; international co-ordination.

As foreseen in Resolution (98) 5, this exercise is being carried out in co-operation with the European Union. The European Union is together with its Member States responsible for sites in the EU Member States and the Council of Europe for the setting-up of the Emerald network outside the EU. The European Environment Agency is a common partner for both organisations with regards to the scientific evaluation of data.

Political interest

Protected areas have been widely recognized as a vital contribution to the conservation of the world's natural and cultural resources.

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a revised and updated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for the 2011-2020 period. Target 11 foresees that “by 2020, 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 landscapes and seascapes”.

The setting-up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest is the regional contribution of the Bern Convention to the achievement of the CBD's Aichi Target 11. This process will follow the action plan adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention at the 30th Standing Committee meeting in December 2010 (see document [T-PVS/PA\(2010\)08revE Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest 2011-2020](#))

European Diploma of Protected Areas

Long-term aims

Ensuring the promotion and the active preservation of biological, geological and landscape diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources through the European Diploma of Protected Area; establishing a set of areas of outstanding heritage value with exemplary and comprehensive management of the biological, cultural and landscape elements present there that can serve as reference points for the long-term study of wild species population and habitat changes, good managerial practice in the framework of sustainable development.

Medium-term aims

Regular monitoring of the areas holding the European Diploma to ensure that they are effectively managed, in compliance with the Recommendations adopted when the Diploma is awarded or renewed, preserving natural and semi-natural areas and some of Europe's most outstanding landscapes;

Short-term aims

Examining governments' applications for the European Diploma if view of the award or the renewal of the Diploma. Monitoring of the annual reports submitted by the managers of the awarded areas. Encouraging nature conservation work and affording a practical opportunity for the managers of the areas holding the Diploma to exchange views and experience. Raising awareness among the European general public and the target groups, particularly local people, of the Diploma.

Funding

Council of Europe and voluntary contributions.

Methods

Meetings of the Group of specialists; independent on-the-spot appraisals; national reporting; Resolutions to be presented to the Committee of Ministers concerning the award, renewal or non-renewal of Diplomas to areas.

Political interest

The European Diploma is a recognised, living and much sought-after instrument requiring a high level of commitment by both managers of diploma-holding areas and the authorities responsible for those areas. It is both a technical and political tool encompassing the values of the Council of Europe and also useful for solving and preventing problems relating to the protection of the awarded areas;

During the 46 years since it was set up in 1965, it has enabled substantive work to be carried out in the field of the protection and meticulous monitoring of sites of outstanding value in terms of biological, geological and landscape diversity and which are managed in an exemplary manner.

Activities for 2012¹

2. Conservation of natural habitats		BO	VC
2.1 Group of experts on protected areas and ecological networks² <i>Terms of reference</i> To do the necessary work to implement Recommendation No. 16 (1989) and Resolution No. 3 (1996) on areas of special conservation interest, in line with the milestones fixed in the "Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest 2011-2020" (document T-PVS/PA(2010)08rev). The group will review the technical documents prepared by the experts and make proposals to make progress in the setting-up of the Emerald Network. <i>Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each of the following 15 states*:</i> ALBANIA, AZERBAIJAN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA, GEORGIA, MOLDOVA, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SERBIA, "THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA", UKRAINE (ANY EU MEMBER STATE?) <i>Travel and subsistence expenses for one consultant</i> <i>*Countries targeted by planned or on-going Emerald projects</i>	Strasbourg, 2 days, September	8,300 1,000	6000
2.2 Biogeographical seminar for the implementation of the Emerald Network <i>Travel and subsistence expenses for a consultant</i> <i>Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each of the following 6 states (courtesy of the EEA):</i> ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA, MONTENEGRO, SERBIA, "THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA"	Strasbourg or Venice, 2 days, first half 2012	/	1,000

¹ The activities which will not receive voluntary contributions will not or partially be implemented.

² Participants: All Contracting Parties; Observers: All observer states and qualified organisations active in this field.

		BO	VC
2.3 Biogeographical seminar for the implementation of the Emerald Network	Strasbourg, 2 days, first half 2012		
<i>Travel and subsistence expenses for a consultant</i>		1,000	
<i>Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each of the following 7 states (to be negotiated with EEA or other donors):</i>			
<i>ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, GEORGIA, MOLDOVA, RUSSIAN, FEDERATION, UKRAINE</i>			
2.4 (tbc after October 2011) Technical seminar for the setting-up of the Emerald Network in Norway	Norway, 2 days, MONTH		5,000
2.5 (tbc after October 2011) Technical seminar for the setting-up of the Emerald Network in Switzerland	Switzerland, 3 days, MONTH		5,000
2.6 Pilot projects for the setting-up of the Emerald Network at national level in some states			
Financial contribution for the setting-up of the Network in two countries			30,000
2.7 Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas	Strasbourg, 2 days, March 2012		
<i>Terms of reference</i>			
To carry-out an effective monitoring of the areas to which the Diploma is awarded or renewed, thus ensuring that a high level of protection is maintained, management is improved, and the conservation of the outstanding area is ensured.			
<i>Travel and subsistence expenses for six delegates* and two consultants</i>		7,200	
*Members of the Group of Specialists			
2.8 Consultancy for the Protected Areas and Ecological Networks			
Consultants will be hired to manage the setting-up of the Emerald Network and to do the necessary technical work required, included software, lists, handling of data, etc.			25,000

Activities for 2013³

**The Programme and Budget for 2013 can be reviewed
at the 32nd Standing Committee meeting**

2. Conservation of natural habitats		BO	VC
2.1 Group of experts on protected areas and ecological networks⁴ <i>Terms of reference</i> To do the necessary work to implement Recommendation No. 16 (1989) and Resolution No. 3 (1996) on areas of special conservation interest, in line with the milestones fixed in the "Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest 2011-2020" (document T-PVS/PA(2010)08rev). The group will review the technical documents prepared by the experts and make proposals to make progress in the setting-up of the Emerald Network. <i>Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each of the following 15 states*:</i> ALBANIA, AZERBAIJAN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA, GEORGIA, MOLDOVA, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SERBIA, "THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA", UKRAINE <i>Travel and subsistence expenses for one consultant</i> <i>*Countries targeted by planned or on-going Emerald projects</i>	Strasbourg, 2 days, September	6,000 800	9,000
2.2 Biogeographical seminar for the implementation of the Emerald Network <i>Travel and subsistence expenses for a consultant</i> <i>Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each of the following 7 states :</i> ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, GEORGIA, MOLDOVA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, UKRAINE	VENUE, 2 days, first half 2013		1,000 7,000
2.3 Technical seminars for the setting-up of the Emerald Network in three States (according to the state of progress in the implementation of the Emerald Calendar of Activities)		5,900	10,000

³ The activities which will not receive voluntary contributions will not or partially be implemented.

⁴ Participants: All Contracting Parties; Observers: All observer states and qualified organisations active in this field.

		BO	VC
2.4 Pilot projects for the setting-up of the Emerald Network at national level in some states Financial contribution for the setting-up of the Network in Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey (tbc)			40,000
2.5 Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas <i>Terms of reference</i> To carry-out an effective monitoring of the areas to which the Diploma is awarded or renewed, thus ensuring that a high level of protection is maintained, management is improved, and the conservation of the outstanding area is ensured. <i>Travel and subsistence expenses for six delegates* and two consultants</i> *Members of the Group of Specialists	Strasbourg, 2 days, March 2013	5,100	2,000
2.6 Consultancy for the Protected Areas and Ecological Networks Consultants will be hired to manage the setting-up of the Emerald Network and to do the necessary technical work required, included software, lists, handling of data, etc.			25,000