

Agenda item 2: Bern Convention work on birds conservation since 2015

- Specific species' action
- Possible case-files and complaints on stand-by
- Implementation of the TAP 2020
- Summary of new standards
- Emerald Network and bird conservation

Action on specific species

- Recommendation No.186 (2016) on the implementation of a Plan for the conservation and recovery of the osprey in Europe and the Mediterranean region in particular
 - Plan for the conservation and recovery of the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) in Europe and the Mediterranean Region
- Recommendation No. 185 (2016) of the Standing Committee, examined on 18 November 2016, on the eradication of the ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palaearctic by 2020
 - Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the Western Palaearctic for the period 2016-2020

Case-files and complaints on stand-by

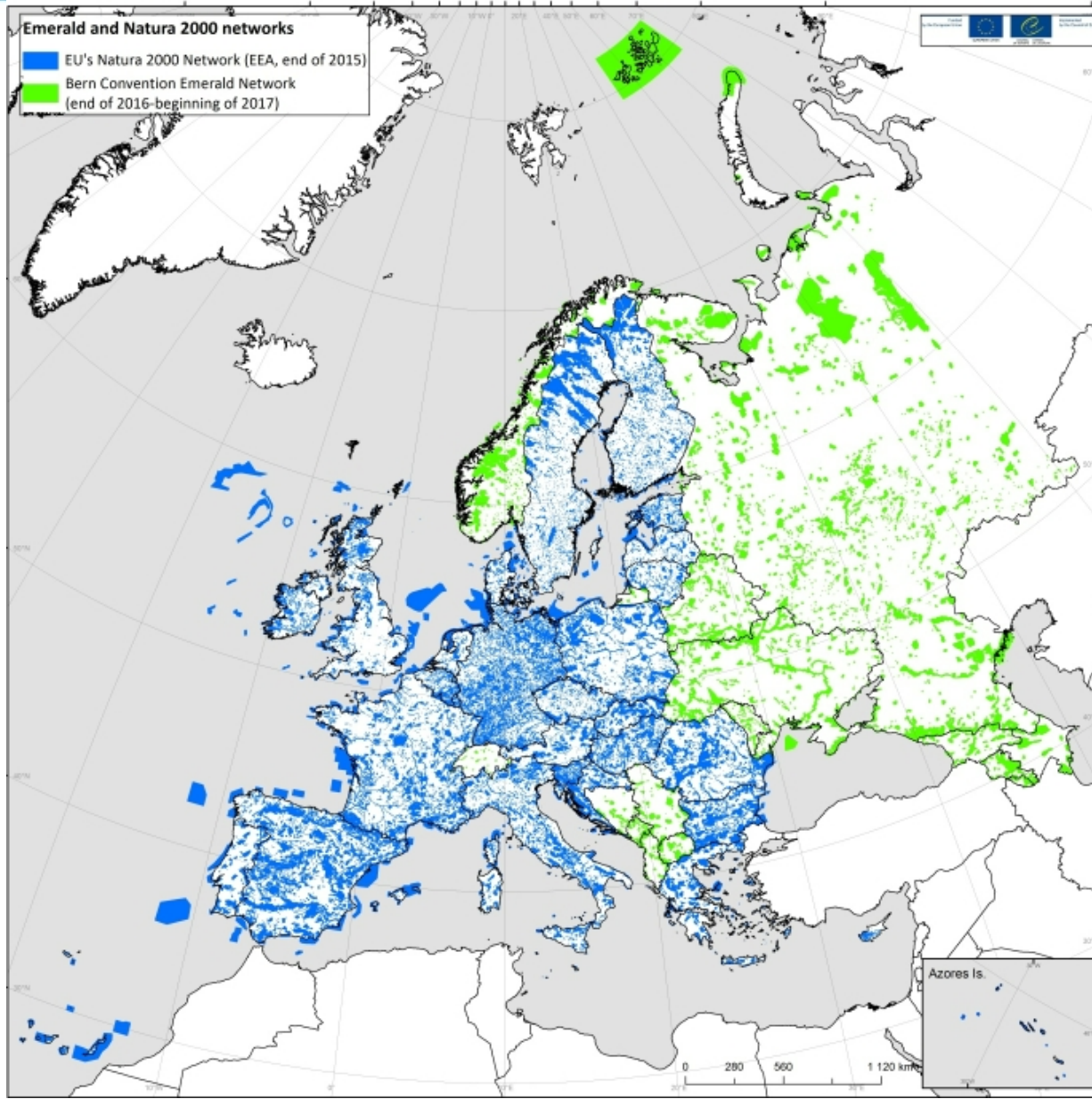
- Afforestation of lowland in Iceland
- Windfarms and birds conservation in Via Pontica (Bulgaria)
- Wind energy development and birds conservation in Turkey
- A number of new complaints linked to IKB in Serbia
- New complaint on the protection of birds of prey in Norway

Implementation of TAP 2020

- Mid-term review of the implementation of TAP
- 3rd meeting of the SFPs for IKB in April 2016 (Tirana, Albania)
- Cooperation and coordination with CMS and MIKT particularly appreciated
- Secretariat instructed to:
 - Seek the organisation of a Joint Bern SFPs/MIKT meeting
 - Development of a joint Scoreboard to be considered
- Awareness-raising activities planned by the Convention for 2017

Adopted Recommendations since September 2015

- Recommendation No.177 (2015) on the gravity factors and sentencing principles for the evaluation of offences against birds, and in particular the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds
- Recommendation No.190 (2016) on the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, specially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland
- Recommendation No.185 (2016) of the Standing Committee, examined on 18 November 2016, on the eradication of the ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palaearctic by 2020
- Recommendation No.186 (2016) on the implementation of a Plan for the conservation and recovery of the osprey in Europe and the Mediterranean region in particular



The Emerald Network

Country	Number of Sites	sites area (km ²)	percentage
AL	25	5224,3	18,2
AM	23	10337,2	34,8
AZ	17	16795,3	19,4
BA	29	2504,6	4,9
BY	162	24038,4	11,6
CH	37	642,2	1,6
GE	55	10749,6	15,4
MD	52	2708,6	8,0
ME	32	2400,8	17,1
MK	35	7543,8	29,3
NO	710	42951,8	13,3
RS	61	10210,8	11,6
RU	1633	496289,9	12,5
UA	271	62660,1	10,4

The Emerald Network (December 2016)

Country	Habitats	Plants	Non-avian animals	Birds
Armenia	22.2	35.7	21.1	59.3
Azerbaijan	3.8	20.8	35.4	18.1
Belarus	0.0	8.8	6.1	19.4
Georgia	6.3	32.1	37.5	21.4
Republic of Moldova	3.8	0.0	15.2	16.3
Russian Federation	6.2	11.4	11.2	3.6
Ukraine	36.6	34.4	33.6	35.7
Average	13.5	18.8	21.8	24.6

Agenda item 6: Mandate of the Group and future meeting – expected results

- Discuss the added value of the Bern Convention on the issue of birds' conservation;
- Identify the priority areas of work for the Convention in the future;
- Review the current mandate of the Group of Experts and propose changes if necessary;
- Opportunity to prepare a new workplan for the Group?;
- Plan the next meeting of the Group.

Current mandate of the Group

- To review current problems of bird conservation in the Convention's area and to suggest action ;
- To advise the Standing Committee and Bureau on matters related to bird conservation ;
- Monitor the implementation of Bird Action Plans ;
- May review results of monitoring activities into the status of globally threatened birds, suggest species that may require Action Plans and propose new monitoring activities ;
- May advise on proposals to the SC on possible amendment of the appendices.

Composition of the Group

- Group co-chaired by Secretariat/BirdLife International, charged to liaise and secure follow-up actions between meetings of the Group.
- Liaise with the ORNIS Committee, Bonn Convention and its agreements and other expert groups on threatened species, disseminate information on threatened birds and propose other measures and activities which might be appropriate for the conservation of threatened birds ;

Composition of the Group

- The Secretariat of the Bern Convention is assisted by BirdLife International to liaise and secure follow-up actions between meetings of the Group;
- Composed by Contracting Parties to the Convention, observer States and appropriate governmental and non-governmental observers (these include other international organisations and Conventions, BirdLife International and its Partners, Wetlands International, WWF, European Habitat Forum, FACE, etc.)

Questions to debate

1. What are the top three issues where the Group of Experts could play a role in the future?
2. What is the added value of the Bern Convention on the issue of bird conservation?
3. How often the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds should meet?