



Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

7th meeting Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

Strasbourg
16 & 17 September 2015

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

Convention de Berne
Bern Convention



Réseau Émeraude
Emerald Network



Item 3: Mandate of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

- 2008 – revision of the mandate of the Group & merger of two Groups of Experts
- GoEPAEN created to deal with protected areas and ecological networks under the Convention, both the Emerald and the Pan-European Ecological Network
- Technical and scientific issues, exchange of good practices, initiatives and projects, etc.





Item 3: Decisions of the 34th Standing Committee on the protection of natural habitats

- Recommendation No. 172 (2014) interpreting certain provisions of Resolution No. 6 (1998) listing species requiring specific habitats conservation measures;
- Revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 4 (1996);
- Revised list of candidate Emerald sites, to include additional 203 proposed Emerald sites from AM, AZ, BY, GE, MD, UA and RF.





Item 4: Implementation of the Emerald Network Calendar 2011 - 2020

- Emerald Calendar 2011 – 2020, adopted in 2010 – T-PVS/PA(2014)14
- Reporting request sent to Parties together with the convocation to the meeting
- Objective – prepare a mid-term evaluation of progress
- 5 written reports received so far, some of them with important delays
- Parties concerned invited to make oral reports at the meeting





Item 4: Implementation of the Emerald Network Calendar 2011 - 2020

- GoEPAEN to discuss whether new site proposals are to be sent to SC
- Concerned Contracting Parties concerned to give their opinion
- Secretariat proposals:
 - All newly identified potential Emerald sites in 2015 from 7 Eastern European and the South Caucasus countries
 - 633 candidate sites from Norway to be sent for official adoption





Item 5: Mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Emerald Calendar

- Mid-term progress report - prepared in summer 2015
- Analyses progress achieved both by Parties and by the Convention (with support of the Secretariat) on the development of the legal framework of the Network
- Concludes with a few recommendations to Parties concerned and the Secretariat to the Convention





Item 5: Mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Emerald Calendar

- Parts 1 and 2 - on the reinforcement of the legal framework of the EN and the update of its tools and methodologies
- Part 3 – explains the geographical coverage of the EN and Parties concerned by its establishment
- Parts 4, 5, 6 and 7 – progress in four different regions
- Part 8 – overall progress
- Part 9 – summary and recommendations





Item 5: Mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Emerald Calendar

- Emerald Network in 3 figures – 600 000 km² or 3000 sites in 16 countries;
- Steady progress in the last 5 years
- Adoption of the Calendar – catalyst for strengthened commitment and action
- Figures changing quickly as the EN is in its constitution phase
- Many CP have included the EN at strategic place in their national political agenda





Item 5: Mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Emerald Calendar

- General conclusions:
 - Positive overall progress
 - Contrasted picture of progress between countries
 - Some countries achieved steady and coherent progress over the 5 years
 - Others are still expected to make (new) site proposals





Item 5: Mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Emerald Calendar

- Recommendations to CP:
 - Mobilise financial and human resources
 - Reinforce cooperation with NGO sector
 - Seek coherence and continuity of action at national level on N2000 and Emerald
 - Increase the visibility of the EN at national level





Item 5: Mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Emerald Calendar

- Recommendations to Bern Convention:
 - Continue supporting work at national level
 - Mobilise additional financial resources for supporting work at national level
 - Increase the visibility of the EN at national level
 - Continue cooperation with major European organisations/institutions/NGOs





Item 6.2: Revised Resolution No. 4 (1996) and new Habitats Interpretation Manual

- 2014 : After 3 years of discussions, a revised Annex 1 to Res. 4 (1996)
- 2 new habitats introduced at the request of Switzerland + 1 additional habitat proposed by Ukraine - general agreement to include it, but in 2014 the decision on the exact place of the habitat in the EUNIS classification was pending
- New revised version of the Habitats Interpretation Manual
- Work on translation of Annex 1 to Res. No. 4 (1996) and Habitats Manual in French





Item 6.3: Work on the taxonomy of possible proposals for additional species to Resolution No. 6 (1998)

- Around 600 proposals for new additional species were collected by seven Eastern European and South Caucasus
- Added value to the process from the practical work on the Emerald Network
- Request that the Secretariat considers these as informal proposals for the moment and help countries choose which ones to officially propose for adding to the Res. 6 (1998)





Item 6.4: Reporting on the Emerald Network

- Requirement of Resolution No. 8 (2012)
- On the Group agenda for a third consecutive year
- Reporting format on progress achieved in the implementation of the EN legal texts for the agreed 6 year reporting period (2013 – 2018)
- 2013 – Discussions on the general objectives of the reporting/Conclusion that the reporting should facilitate comparison of conservation status at pan-European level
- 2014 – Discussions on a concrete reporting format





Item 6.4: Reporting on the Emerald Network

- In 2014, the Group requested:
 - The format should include more concrete question 1 avoid open questions;
 - CP to be requested to report on the conservation status of a subset of species and habitats
 - Choice of the subset of S&H to be proposed, taking into account recently finalised European and national Red Lists





Item 6.4: Reporting on the Emerald Network

- Document T-PVS/PA(2015)11:
 - 1st attempt to adapt the EU Nature Directives reporting formats for the needs of the EN
 - Draft format aimed at helping CP understand:
 - (1) the way reporting is organised for EU countries under NATURA 2000
 - (2) what sort of data is gathered
 - (3) What amount of details are requested





Item 6.4: Reporting on the Emerald Network

- Selection of species and habitats for the 1st reporting exercise (201 – 2018)
- 2 options proposed:
 - The reporting format requires reporting on an agreed number of species and habitats and CPs are free to chose those on which they want to report on;
 - The reporting focuses on a common set of species and habitats based on the following criteria – (1) presence in as many CPs concerned as possible; (2) Red Listed species and (3) S&H with declared unfavorable conservation status in the EU countries, etc.





Item 7.7: Draft Guidelines on the management of the Emerald Network sites

- Request from CPs to be accompanied in process of planning the management measures for Emerald sites [Res. 8 (2012)]
- 1st draft presented at the GoEPAEN in 2012
- Takes into consideration Bern Convention Recommendations on climate change and biodiversity
- Comments and suggestions received from several Contracting Parties and NGOs





Item 7.7: Draft Guidelines on the management of the Emerald Network sites

- Designed as a practical guide for national authorities in the process of planning the management measures
- Step-by-step approach: their use to be adapted to the needs and reality of the CP and the site at stake
- Use of the Guidelines is voluntary, although could be recommended through the adoption of a Rec. on the Guidelines
- 3rd simplified version - 9 pages against 20 in the 1st version





Item 7.7: Draft Guidelines on the management of the Emerald Network sites

- If Group agrees on the Guidelines, even with amendments/additions:
 - Draft recommendation on the Guidelines on managing the Emerald sites, including CC adaptation and mitigation
 - Long-term vision for the management; coherent with national biodiversity strategy; link to surrounding landscapes; involve stakeholders; cooperate with neighboring countries;
 - Use Guidelines as appropriate





Item 8.2: Follow-up to give to analysis of actions by CPs to implement Rec. No. 25 (1991)

