COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

35th Standing Committee Meeting

Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015

Jacques STEIN - GoEPAEN

CONVENTION DE BERNE
BERN CONVENTION

7th Meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks (GoEPAEN)

- REPORT -

7th Meeting (16-17 september 2015)

22 Contracting Parties

7 Experts of speakers

2 NGO's

Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

Implementation and overall mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Emerald Network Calendar 2011-2020

Tools for the Emerald Network implementation

Emerald Network managment : exchange of experiences and guidance

Pan-European Ecological Network

Conclusions of the meeting and Future work of the Group of Experts

Election of the new Chair of the Group of Experts

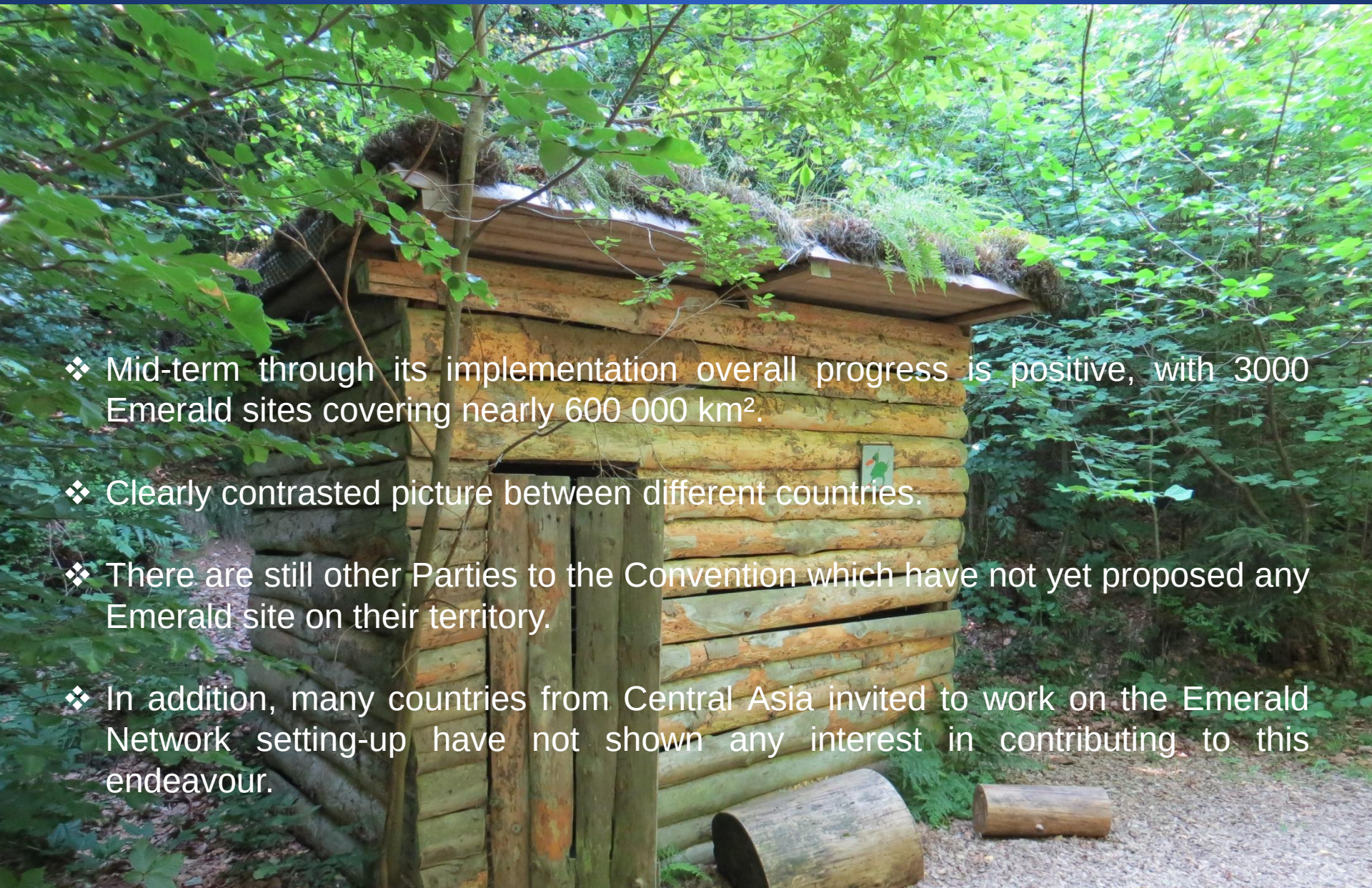
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

Presentation of 15 National Reports

CONVENTION DE BERNE
BERN CONVENTION



- Mid-term through its implementation overall progress is positive, with 3000 Emerald sites covering nearly 600 000 km².
- Clearly contrasted picture between different countries.
- There are still other Parties to the Convention which have not yet proposed any Emerald site on their territory.
- In addition, many countries from Central Asia invited to work on the Emerald Network setting-up have not shown any interest in contributing to this endeavour.

The following recommendations are addressed **to the competent national authorities of all Contracting Parties, Observer States and other interested countries:**

- Mobilise financial and human resources at national level, both internal or external
- Seek advice from the Secretariat of the Bern Convention, both on issues linked to the constitution process of the Network and the resource mobilisation process before external donors
- Reinforce cooperation with civil society sector, in particular nature conservation NGOs and sector in general which often have robust and updated ecological data available, with can be used for starting operations on the Emerald Network setting-up
- Reinforce coherence between any action implemented at national level on the setting-up of the Natura 2000 Network and work on the establishment of the Emerald Network
- Act towards increasing the visibility of the Emerald network, its objectives and longterm benefits at national level, both to the general public and political decision-makers

The following recommendations are addressed **to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention:**

- Continue supporting the efforts and work by Contracting Parties and Observer States, currently active on the Network setting-up
- Continue providing technical and organisation support when needed and requested by Contracting Parties, Observer States and other interested countries
- Increase the visibility of the Emerald Network at all levels and in particular among the main actors and stakeholders in its future management
- Seek opportunities for the mobilisation of additional financial resources aimed at supporting action on the implementation of the Emerald Calendar 2011-2020.

Status of the New release of the Emerald Software

Revised Resolution N° 4(1996) and new release of the Habitats Interpretation Manual

Status of work on the taxonomy of possible new proposals for addition to Resolution N° 6 (1998) by the Catalogue of Life

Reporting on the Emerald Network : revised reporting format

EMERALD Network Managment : exchange of experiences and guidance

- EMERALD Network and Natura 2000 in Croatia
- NATURA 2000 in Austria
- Managing wild areas, restoration and non-intervention management
- Update on current EUROPARC network initiatives
- The new NATURA 2000 Biogeographical Process for enhancing effective management, monitoring and reporting of the Natura 2000 network
- Draft Guidelines on planning management measures for EMERALD sites, including climate change adaptation and mitigation

PEEN

A pilot ecological network in South Lithuania for improving the improve connectivity between reptile and amphibian populations

Ecological connectivity in France : la Trame Verte et Bleue (TVB)

Implementation by Contracting Parties of Recommendation No. 25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper : analysis of reports submitted by Contracting Parties

CONVENTION DE BERNE
BERN CONVENTION

Programme of work 2016 and next meetings

- May 2016: Emerald biogeographical Seminar for Continental region (RF, BY, UA, MD);
- September 2016: Emerald biogeographical Seminar for Steppic region (RF, UA, MD);
- November 2016: Emerald Biogeographical Seminar for bird species (AZ, AM, GE);
- Emerald biogeographical Seminar for Norway (date tbc)
- 8th meeting of the GoEPAEN - 21-22/09/16, venue to be confirmed;
- 1st meeting of the restricted Group on the reporting format, date tbc;
- Launching of a second Emerald Network project in Morocco.

Election of the new Chair of the Group of Experts

Tore OPDAHL (Norway)

CONVENTION DE BERNE
BERN CONVENTION

Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

The Standing Committee is invited to:

❖Take note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts, as well as of the mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Emerald Network Calendar 2011-2020;

❖Take note of the decision of the Group of Experts to form a Restricted Ad-hoc Group on Reporting, charged with the drafting of the form to be used by Parties for reporting on the Emerald Network implementation, as required by Resolution No. 8 (2012), and to convey this Group;

❖Thank the European Environment Agency and its European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity for the crucial technical and scientific support provided throughout 2015;

❖Consider the proposals for the future activities on the setting-up of the Emerald Network and the Pan-European Ecological Network, when adopting its Programme of activities and budget for 2016-2017;

❖Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following documents:

- Draft updated list of officially nominated candidate Emerald sites;
- Draft updated list of officially adopted Emerald sites;
- Draft Revised Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network (2011-2020);
- Draft Recommendation on improving the conservation of nature outside protected areas proper.

CONVENTION DE BERNE
BERN CONVENTION

Thank You!