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# EU/CoE Joint Programme “Emerald Network of Nature Protection Sites. Phase II” 3rd Steering Committee meeting

Strasbourg  
14 January 2016

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Funded  
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Convention de Berne  
Bern Convention



Réseau Émeraude  
Emerald Network



## 2. Introduction to the meeting

### Aims of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting:

- i. To review the achievements of the project's objectives, the lessons learnt by the 7 target countries, and the outcomes of the evaluation seminars;
- ii. To plan activities for 2016;
- iii. To discuss the future of the Joint Project after its end in October 2016.





## 2. Review of achievements and lessons learnt in 2015

### Presentations by the national project leaders (5 slides/10 min):

- Main achievements in 2015: progress in filling the gaps and identifying new sites, species and habitat distribution information, stakeholders involvement, results from field trips, etc.;
- Follow-up of the evaluation results (conclusions of the biogeographical seminars) : actions / actors involved;
- Difficulties encountered in the project implementation and solutions identified;
- Pending issues.





## 5. Draft Guidelines on the management of Emerald sites [T-PVS/PA (2015)10]

### Background:

- Request from parties to be accompanied in process of planning the management measures for Emerald sites [Res. 8 (2012)]
- 1st draft presented at last GoEPAEN in 2012
- Guidelines take into consideration Bern Convention Recommendations on climate change and biodiversity [Rec. 159 (2012)]
- Comments and suggestions received from several Contracting Parties and NGOs





## 5. Draft Guidelines on the management of Emerald sites [T-PVS/PA (2015)10]

- Second draft Guidelines – simplified version
- Designed as a practical guide for practitioners
- Useful to policy-makers
- 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





## 5. Draft Guidelines on the management of Emerald sites [T-PVS/PA (2015)10]

### Management planning steps:

- Step 1: Pre-planning: selection of the site subject to planning
- Step 2: Data gathering
- Step 3: Assessment of major climate change aspects and their impact on biodiversity
- Step 4: Identification of key elements (habitats and species) within the site
- Step 5: Adaptive Management Plan



## 5. Draft Guidelines on the management of Emerald sites [T-PVS/PA (2015)10]

- Aim: To help assess the current status of the site legally and practically and plan the right measures and responsibilities for the S&H at stake there
- Process: All data on the site gathered in Steps 1-4, to be used for planning the measures under Step 5
- Recommendations on the policy, management, environmental, social and economic aspects



## 6. Project planning for 2016

### 6.1 Proposed planning of the Emerald Biogeographical seminars

- **3rd Steering Committee Meeting**, 14 January 2016, Strasbourg (FR), 1 day
- **Emerald biogeographical Seminar** (11-13 May 2016, Chisinau, 2.5(3?) days) for all habitats and species (except birds) for continental region (BY, MD, RU and UA) and for Pannonian and Alpine Carpathians (UA)
- **Emerald biogeographical Seminar** (6-8 September 2016, Kiev, 3 days) for all habitats and species (except birds) for steppic region (MD, RU and UA) and Alpine Caucasus (RU), Marine Black Sea (UA, RU) and Marine Caspian Sea;
- **Emerald biogeographical Seminar** (6-7 December 2016, Tbilisi, 1.5(2) days) for AM, AZ and GE for bird species;
- **Final Project Event** (4 October 2016 (December 2016 – January 2017), Strasbourg(?)).

### Calendar of meetings 2016 Bern Convention:

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/meetings-2016>







## 5. Draft Guidelines on the management of Emerald sites [T-PVS/PA (2015)10]

- Several chapters of the Guidelines could be improved, in particular the one on financing the management measures
- Case-studies might be included, including on cooperation with civil society and local actors input
- Contributions from Contracting Parties expected



## 6. Project planning for 2016

### 6.2 Planning of the national Terms of Reference (2016)

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## 6. Project planning for 2016

### 6.3 Final project event (4 October 2016, tbc)

- Exchange of ideas
- Purpose: contribute to better visibility of the JP / facilitate continuation
- Examples:
  - Participation of thematic Ministries (how the project was reflected in national policies)
  - Participation of NGOs (ideas of improvement)





# 7. Visibility, dissemination of results and final reporting

Joint Programme  
 Emerald Network of Nature Protection Sites, Phase II

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Home News About the project Targeted countries Resources Project activities in 2014

You are here: [Emerald Network nature protection sites Phase II](#) > Home

## Emerald Network of Nature Protection Sites, Phase II

The Emerald Network under the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats is set-up to ensure that all high biodiversity areas of European importance are identified, their ecological inventories completed and their importance recognised legally. The identified Emerald Network sites will then benefit from adequate protection, while allowing human social and economic activities and encouraging sustainable human-nature interaction. This European Union/Council of Europe project contributes to the establishment of the Emerald Network in seven target countries (see map below).

Calendar 2014

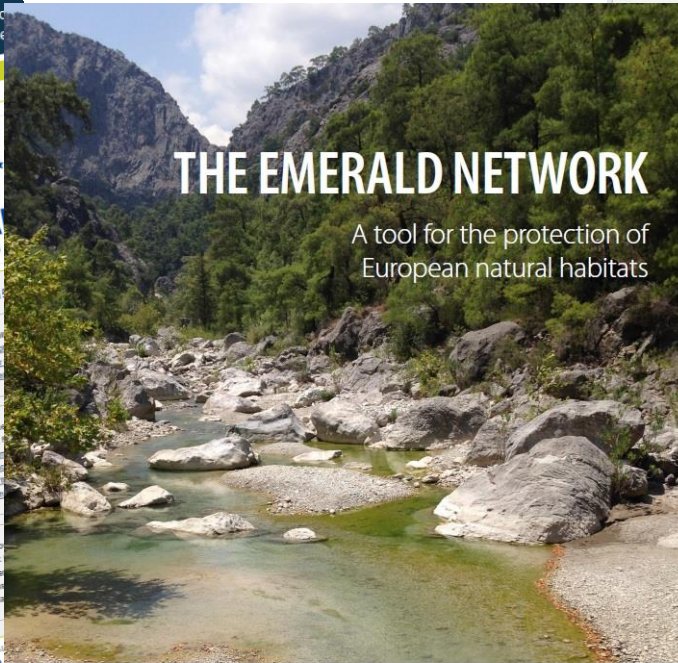
- 27-29 May 2015, The Emerald Network evaluation seminar, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan
- 29-30 September, Porecavosak, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 24-25 November, Samara, Russian Federation

NEW LEAFLET  
**STRASBOURG, FRANCE | September 2015**  
**Why establishing the Emerald Network?**

A new short leaflet presenting the methodology and benefits of establishing the Emerald Network was produced and is now available for download in both English and French.

HEADLINE  
**The results of the first Emerald evaluation Seminar are available**

The first Emerald network evaluation seminar was held in Tbilisi on 27-29 May 2015. The evaluation targeted three South-Caucasus countries, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. It was aimed at assessing how well the Emerald Network already identified on the territories of



**THE EMERALD NETWORK**  
 A tool for the protection of European natural habitats

**Bern Convention: Protecting Europe's biodiversity**  
 Organisme communautaire

Journal À propos Événements Vidéos Plus

Message sur le mur Photo Vidéo

Bern Convention: Protecting Europe's biodiversity  
 22 h · Modifié

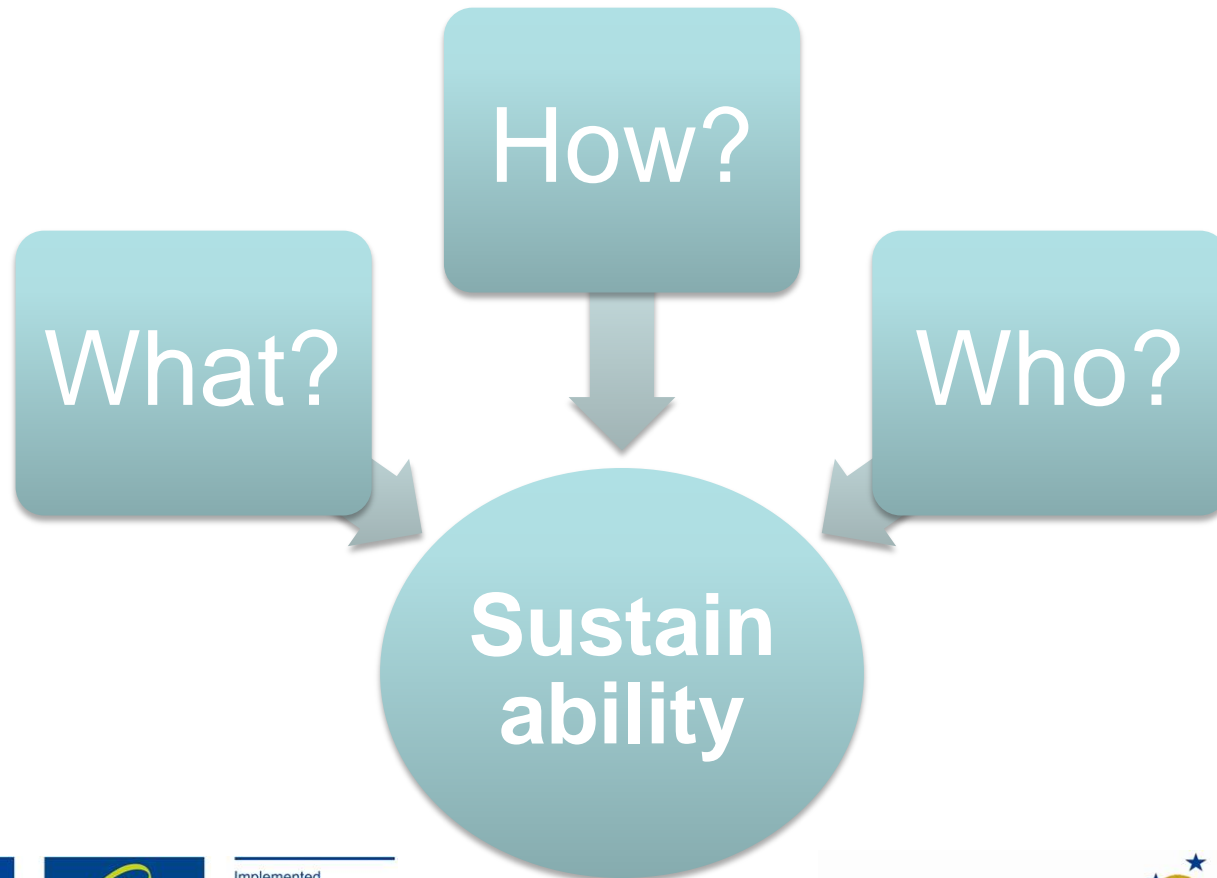
Take a closer look at our freshly released leaflet presenting the Emerald Network, why are we working hard towards its establishment and the objectives we aim to achieve.

The publication further presents some key figures on the progress accomplished in the Emerald Network setting-up so far. You can download it from the resources section of the Bern Convention webpage [http://www.coe.int/.../cultureherita.../nature/multimedia\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/.../cultureherita.../nature/multimedia_en.asp)

**THE EMERALD NETWORK**  
 A tool for the protection of European natural habitats



## 9. Exchange of ideas regarding the future of the EU/CoE JP Emerald Network II





## 10. Any other business

- Interim reporting to CoE (narrative/financial) **by Friday 22/01/2016**
- AA 2016 to be signed in **02/2016**
- Final reporting to EC (**spring 2016**)
- Extension request to the EC (**asap**)



## 11. Conclusions of the meeting

- **Achievements by the target countries in 2015:** new sites identified, databases revised, field visits and meetings conducted, multiple stakeholders involved (cross-sectoral cooperation established, MD), legislation revised, particularly to raise the status of the Emerald areas, publications issued
- **Challenges in 2015:** old data, data inventory needed, management of new sites (GE), border management, travel costs, taxonomic issues, issue of compliance of the EUNIS habitat classification and habitat types (RU), application of the Emerald technical rules concerning the borders (RU)





## 12. Conclusions of the meeting

- **Results of the biogeographical seminars in 2015:** correlation between quantity and quality, level of precision of the assessment => takes time to reach the target (setting up of an operational network)!
- **Feedback from the countries:** very useful
- **Added value of the seminars:** better understanding of the process and targets; broader stakeholder involvement; experience exchange; new contacts and cooperation schemes
- **Improvements:** preliminary meetings (BL), publication (RUS); involve more stakeholders, improve legislation (MD); improve visibility, specifically among the scientific community, upgrade data, incl. species to be excluded from the reference list (UA); border management (GE)







## 12. Conclusions of the meeting

- **Milestones:**

1. Results of the Minsk seminar (comments): 22/01/2016
2. Reporting: 22-29/01/2016
3. Final conclusions of the Steering Committee, conclusions on Terms of Reference: 22/01/2016
4. Biogeographical seminars:
  1. Chisinau 11-13/05/2016 May (3days, field trip?)
  2. Kyiv – 6-8/09/2016
  3. Tbilisi – 6-7/12/2016 (2 days?)
  4. Final Event – 4/10/2016? (12/2016- 01/2017, depend on the final data delivery (latest 09/2017))
4. Request no-cost extension (asap)
5. Reporting to the EU (04/2017)





## 12. Conclusions of the meeting

- **Final event:** important to involve multiple stakeholders (Ministries, NGOs, academia), discuss managerial and legislative best-practices from other Emerald and Natura 2000 countries (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Baltic States); invite CBD, IUCN; organise a farewell party (check budget); meeting outside Strasbourg and field visit? (budget + EU coordination);
- **Reporting EU:** ~40 pages' brochure with results, achievements and pending issues; visual format; need to communicate to more stakeholders; timeline: spring





## 12. Conclusions of the meeting

- **Visibility:** under the Association Agreements (MD, GE, UA), reporting under international conventions, publications, TV programmes, news articles, leaflets, meetings with students, events (incl. Ministerial, meetings with farmers, students, academia), national seminars, planned publication of the results of the biogeographical seminars and guidelines on the Emerald Network (RU), University curriculum, presentations at global events, drawing competition for children, museum of the Emerald Network (UA)
- **Cooperation:** UNDP-DF (BL) => 11 new sites were identified; GIZ (GE) => draft biodiversity laws; Birdlife (MD); NGOs; back-to-back events (RU); WWF, UNDP projects (UA)
- **EU GREEN EAST Programme (2017-2021):** aimed at improving environmental management in the Eastern Partnership countries; selection of best project, needs-oriented, regional approach; ownership; timeline: 2017





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# Thank you!

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