



Establishing a coherent pan-European network of protected areas: the contribution of the Emerald network under the Bern Convention

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The Bern Convention: the European treaty on nature conservation



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Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Convention relative à la conservation de la vie sauvage et du milieu naturel de l'Europe

Bern/Berne, 19.IX.1979





- Resolution No. 1 (1989): SC recommends to Contracting Parties to designate Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs) – support to the implementation of Art. 4 of the Convention
- Recommendation No. 16 (1989): list of six general conditions for ASCIs, at least one to be fulfilled
- Resolution No. 3 (1996): second act of birth for the Network decision to create the Emerald Network of ASCIs
- Resolution No. 5 (1998): Rules for the Emerald Network
- Resolution No. 4 (1996) and Resolution No. 6 (1998): Lists of endangered habitats and species to be protected under the Emerald Network





- Focus on Res. No. 3 (1996) & No. 5 (1998)
- The Standing Committee recommends to Parties to implement their obligations under the Convention through a number of measures, among which the designation of the ASCIs
- The ASCIs will form the Emerald Network \bullet
- Countries other than the Convention CP are also invited • to join the Network
- For EU MS Natura 2000 sites are considered as **Emerald** sites
- CP and observer states "to designate ASCIs and to notify" them to the Secretariat" Convention de Berne

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- Criteria for assessing the National Lists of proposed ASCIs at biogeographical level and procedure for examining and approving Emerald candidate sites
- Recommendation No.157 (2011): on the status of candidate Emerald sites
- Resolution No. 8 (2012): on the national designation of adopted Emerald sites and the implementation of management, monitoring and reporting measures

Political agenda: Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network of ASCIs (2011-2020)



Some background (years 2000)





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 <u>Phase I:</u> Selection of potential sites suitable for ensuring the long-term survival of the "Emerald" species and habitats (at country level) and sending of database with scientific information to the Bern Convention Secretariat;

Emerald Network

constitution process

- <u>Phase II:</u> Evaluation of the efficiency of the proposed sites on a species by species and habitat by habitat basis (at (sub)regional and biogeographical level); Submission of the final database site list -after the end of the scientific assessment process- for final adoption by the Bern Convention Standing Committee;
- <u>Phase III:</u> Designation at national level of the Emerald sites, for integration to the Emerald Network





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Soft law vs strict obligations?

Convention: strict obligations, part of international law

To protect the habitats of threatened species and endangered habitats

Tool: creation of the Network by virtue of Res. and Rec. Soft law supporting implementatio n of strict international obligations





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Joint European Union/Council of Europe work

- 2008-2009: Joint projects targeting West Balkan countries
- 1st Joint project (2009 – 2012) for 7 ENPI countries
- Current project (2013 – 2016)



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Number of sites and

The second total area covered by January 2016

Country	2012	2014		2015		
	% country coverage	sites	% country coverage	sites	area covered (km²)	% country coverage
AM	7.68	13	9.88	21	4975.44	16.58
AZE	11.46	12	9.72	16	8698.69	10.00
BY	4.39	16	4.71	119	21350.04	10.26
GE	8.42	21	13.20	49	10436.20	14.97
MD	12.24	18	11.53	36	3127.62	9.28
RU	7.13	923	8.0	1548	492510.5 5	+- 10.00
UA	7.20	159	7.4	194	53612.55	8.88
Total:	7.15%	1154	9.2%	2019	594711.0 9	+-12%



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> The Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest under the Bern Convention



Bern Convention + Berne Bern Convention + Berne Convention



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https://youtu.be/Ki-fy5Xm910

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Questions:

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