



Council of Europe  
Conseil de l'Europe

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



# Emerald Network: background (80' & 90')

- **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
- 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”*

## Some background (years 2000)



- 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)

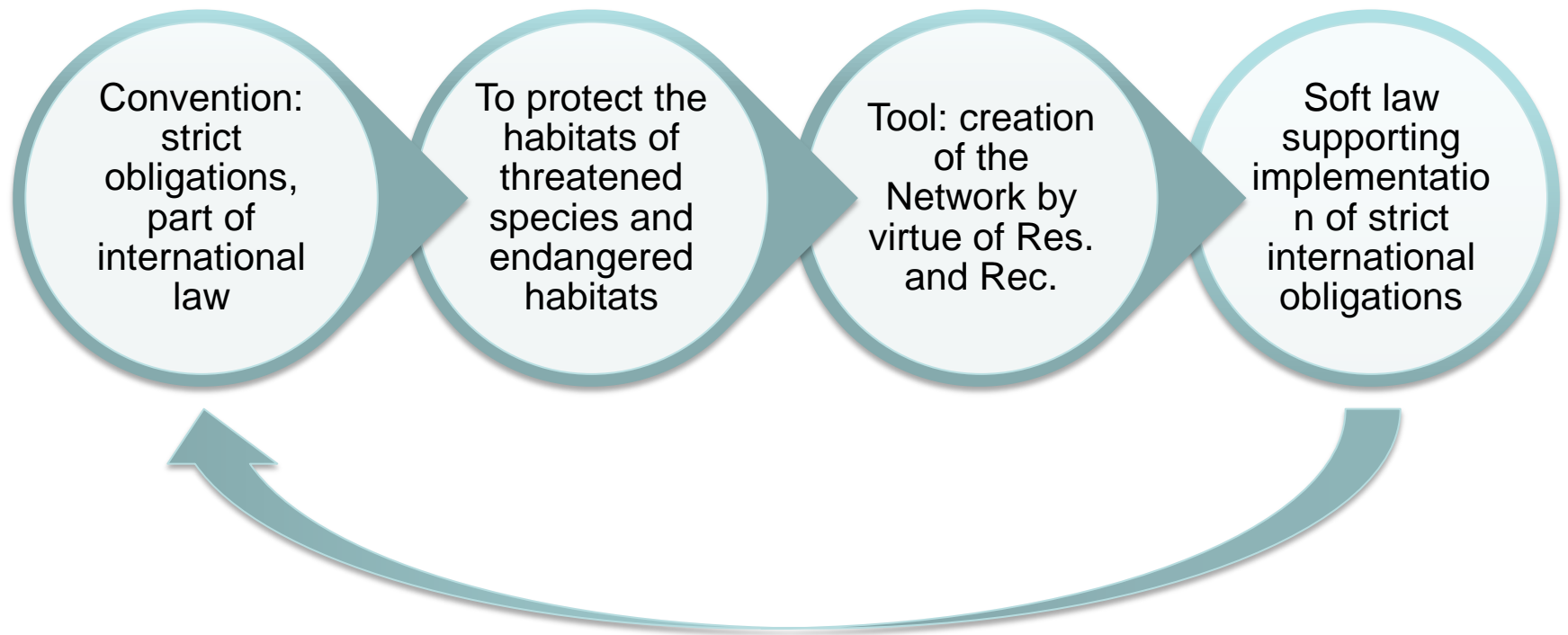
# Emerald Network constitution process



- Phase I: 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;
- Phase II: 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;
- Phase III: Designation at national level of the Emerald sites, for integration to the Emerald Network



# Soft law vs strict obligations?





## Joint European Union/Council of Europe work

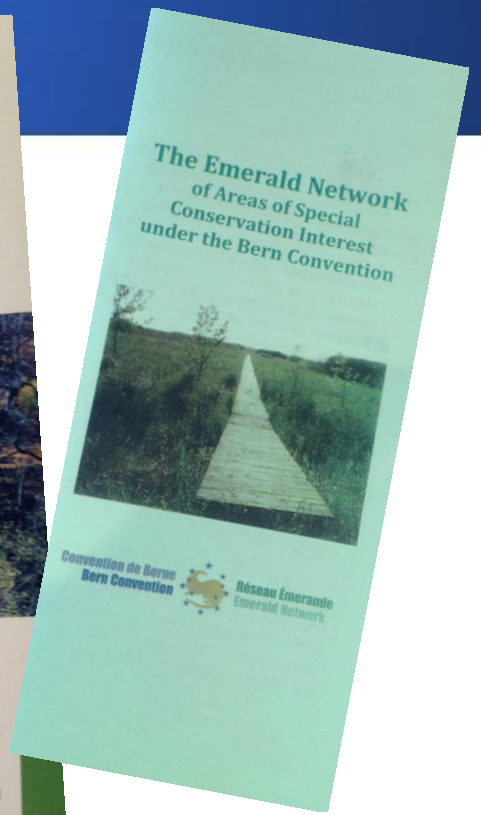
- 2008-2009: Joint projects targeting West Balkan countries
- 1<sup>st</sup> Joint project (2009 – 2012) for 7 ENPI countries
- Current project (2013 – 2016)







Country	2012	2014		2015		
	% country coverage	sites	% country coverage	sites	area covered (km <sup>2</sup> )	% country coverage
<b>AM</b>	7.68	13	9.88	21	4975.44	16.58
<b>AZE</b>	11.46	12	9.72	16	8698.69	10.00
<b>BY</b>	4.39	16	4.71	119	21350.04	10.26
<b>GE</b>	8.42	21	13.20	49	10436.20	14.97
<b>MD</b>	12.24	18	11.53	36	3127.62	9.28
<b>RU</b>	7.13	923	8.0	1548	492510.5 5	+ - 10.00
<b>UA</b>	7.20	159	7.4	194	53612.55	8.88
<b>Total:</b>	7.15%	1154	9.2%	2019	594711.0 9	+ - 12%



<https://youtu.be/Ki-fy5Xm910>



Questions:

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