



Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

EU/CoE Joint Programme
Emerald Network Phase II

FIRST BIO-GEOGRAPHICAL SEMINAR FOR BIRDS: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Otars Opermanis
Tbilisi

1 December 2016

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

Funded
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EUROPEAN UNION



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented
by the Council of Europe

Convention de Berne
Bern Convention



Réseau Émeraude
Emerald Network



Seminars: work done so far

Subject	Coverage	Year	Dates and location
All exc. Birds	Caucasus (all bio-regions, AM, AZ, GE)	2015	27-29 May, Tbilisi
All exc. Birds	Arctic and Boreal Region* (BY, RU)	2015	28-30 Sep., Petrozavodsk
Birds	BY, MD, RU, UA	2015	24-25 November, Minsk
All exc. Birds	Continental Region** (BY, MD, RU, UA)	2016	11-13 May, Chisinau
All exc. Birds	Steppic Region*** (MD, RU, UA)	2016	6-8 September, Kyiv
Birds	Caucasus (AM, AZ, GE)	2016	1-2 December, Tbilisi

* with Alpine Urals

** with Alpine Carpathians and UA Pannonian

*** with Alpine North Caucasus and RU Black Sea



Seminar: aims

- Assess if the network of proposed ASCIs by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia are now sufficient for each bird species listed in the Resolution 6 of the Berne Convention, as well as regularly occurring migratory species, using the agreed criteria;
- Consider opinions of different stakeholders: Governments, NGOs, scientific experts representing different other institutions
- Conclude on sufficiency for each species per country





Seminars: preparations

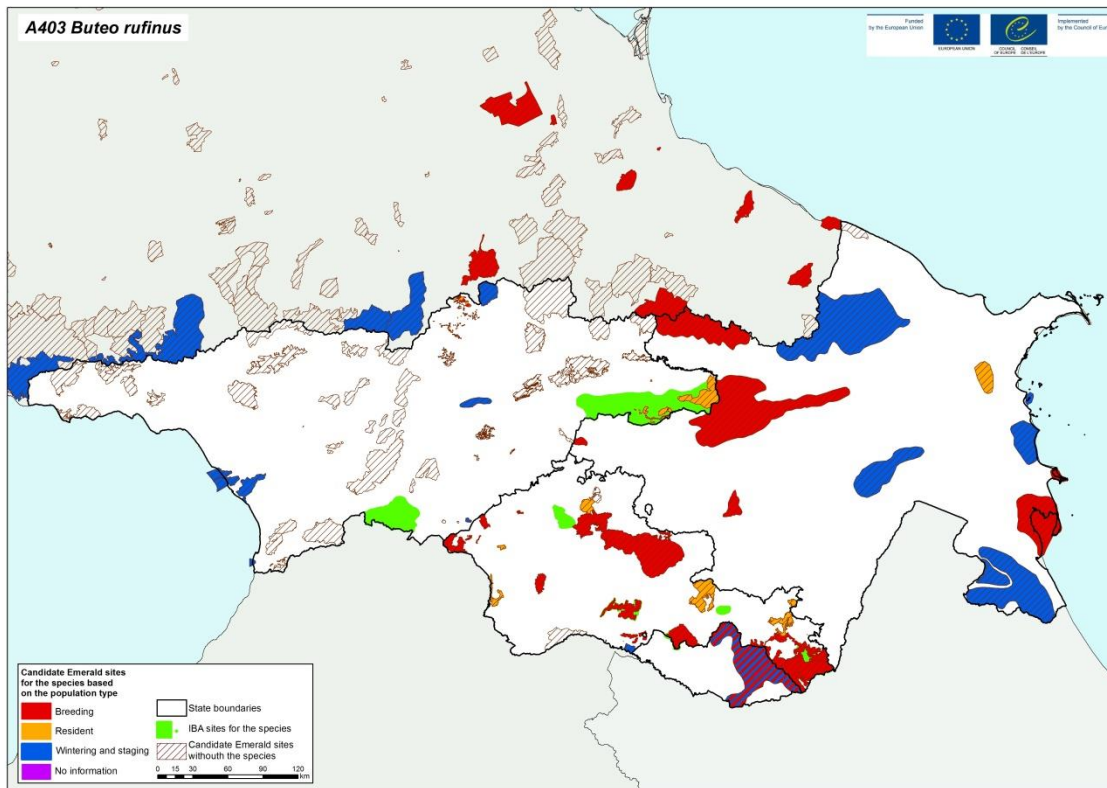
- Pre-assessment by the Council of Europe consultants resulting in 'draft conclusions'
- Key steps in the above work for all Resolution 6 species:
 - Look at the SDFs submitted by countries
 - Search for the reference data
 - Compare SDFs with reference data
 - Propose a possible conclusion (if any)
- The aim of the above is to ask questions where they appear and to start discussion;



Documents: draft conclusions

Porziņģis: Dzirdēt fanus sl... travel to minsk - operman... https://rm.coe.int/CoERM...
 https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168048a536

Code	Species Name	iso	pASCI	pop. assessment	Draft Conclusion Comments	Draft Conclusion
A001	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	BY	1	(1D)	Present in significant numbers at all? Exclude from the Reference List?	?
A001	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	MD	1	(1B)	BIÉ3: Wi= (i0-0). SDF: the only site holds a wintering population of 30-50 birds. Why not 'A' for population?	Probably SUF/ CD?
A001	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	RU	19	(19C)	BIÉ3: Br= (p30000-50000). SDF: 50-70 pairs. Data obviously incomplete. Breeding range, according to Birds of Europe, poorly represented by Emerald sites. Is the status of 'wintering' correct for the 'blue' Murmansk and Komi sites?	IN MOD?
A001	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	UA	18	(18D)	BIÉ3: Wi= (i10-100). Wintering occasionally in small numbers? Is this the rationale for choosing 'D' populations for all sites?	Probably SUF?
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	BY	23	(1A 3B 11C 8D)	BIÉ3: Br= (p10-12), Wi= (i0-5). SDF: 22-31 breeding pairs, 59-353 inds (migratory/wintering). Sites well represent the breeding range as given by Red Book of Belarus.	Probably SUF?
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	MD	5	(5B)	BIÉ3: Wi= (i0-0). SDF: 67- 120i (wintering). Two IBAs not covered by site proposals: Dniester River between Naslavcea & Soroca (North) and Congaz - Taraclia Lakes. Numbers are not very high (below 10 in each site). Is this important?	?
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	RU	72	(72C)	BIÉ3: Br= (p35000-65000), SDF: 6587 breeding pairs (i.e. 10-18% of population is covered by site proposals). Possible gap in the centre of breeding range (i.e. Arkhangelsk and Komi)? A few IBAs not covered: Kuloy River with 700-1000 breeding pairs (North), and 2 smaller sites in the Botnian bay (for migration).	IN MOD?
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	UA	46	(24B 19C 3D)	BIÉ: Wi= (i500-700). No breeding population (?) One site South of Kherson oblast reports breeding: is this correct? Otherwise the wintering range seems to be covered, including a few marine sites in the Black Sea.	Probably SUF? / CD?
A007	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	BY	2	(2D)	No regular occurrence? Exclude from the Reference List?	?
A007	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	RU	35	(1B 34C)	BIÉ: minimum 1500 breeding pairs. No numeric data in SDF. A few possible gaps in covering the species distribution: present in Pskov, Tver (in Red Book - a few tens of breeding pairs reported) , Kostroma oblasts? Few IBAs not fully or partly covered: Adovo-Chugumski wetland (Perm), valley of Sysola River (Komi), Druzhinnoje lake (Vologda).	IN MOD ?



Maps: how to read legends

Emerald sites for the species based on the population type

- Breeding
- Resident
- Wintering and staging
- No information
- IBA sites for the species
- State boundaries (2001-2004 ESRI)
- Administrative boundaries (regions)



But... abbreviations...sorry

BiE3 (Birds in Europe 3)	SDF (Emerald database)	Maps
Br (r)	Reproduction (r)	Breeding
Wi (w)	Wintering (w)	Wintering and staging
Br (r) + Wi (w)	Permanent (p)	Resident
-	Concentration (c)	Wintering and staging





Coding of conclusions

Coding	Meaning	Action required
SUF	Sufficient	No further sites needed
IN MIN	Insufficient – minor	More sites required but habitat/species is present on sites already proposed for other habitats/species
IN MOD	Insufficient - moderate	One or a few additional sites (or maybe extension to sites) required.
IN MAJOR	Insufficient- major	No sites proposed at present and a significant effort required
SCI RES	Scientific Reserve	Further study required
CD	Correction of data	Data needs to be corrected / completed





Criteria: as for all species

To reach the aims of Convention, the selection of sites for each species and habitat must:

- represent sites from the entire **distribution range** at a national level;
- it should reflect the **ecological variation** of the species;
- it should be well-adapted to the specific conservation needs, in particular to those related to the **distribution patterns** of the considered species;
- if the first 3 conditions are met, it will be expected that site proposals will include **significant proportions** of species populations within the Emerald network versus the overall national resource.



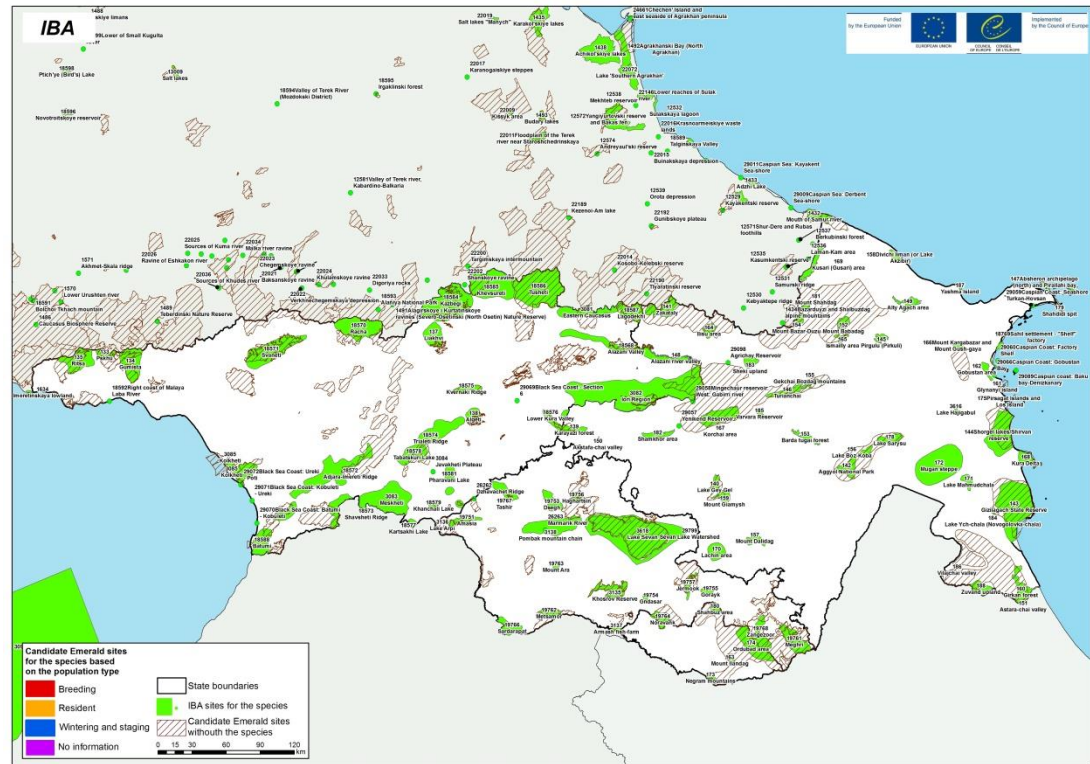
Differences from non-avian seminars?

- No bio-geographical regions
- Evaluations done taking into consideration different stages of life-cycle (breeding, migration, wintering)
- Important Bird Area inventory taken as a main reference
- Operating mainly with numeric data
- Not only species listed in Res. 6 considered (also 'regularly occurring migratory birds')

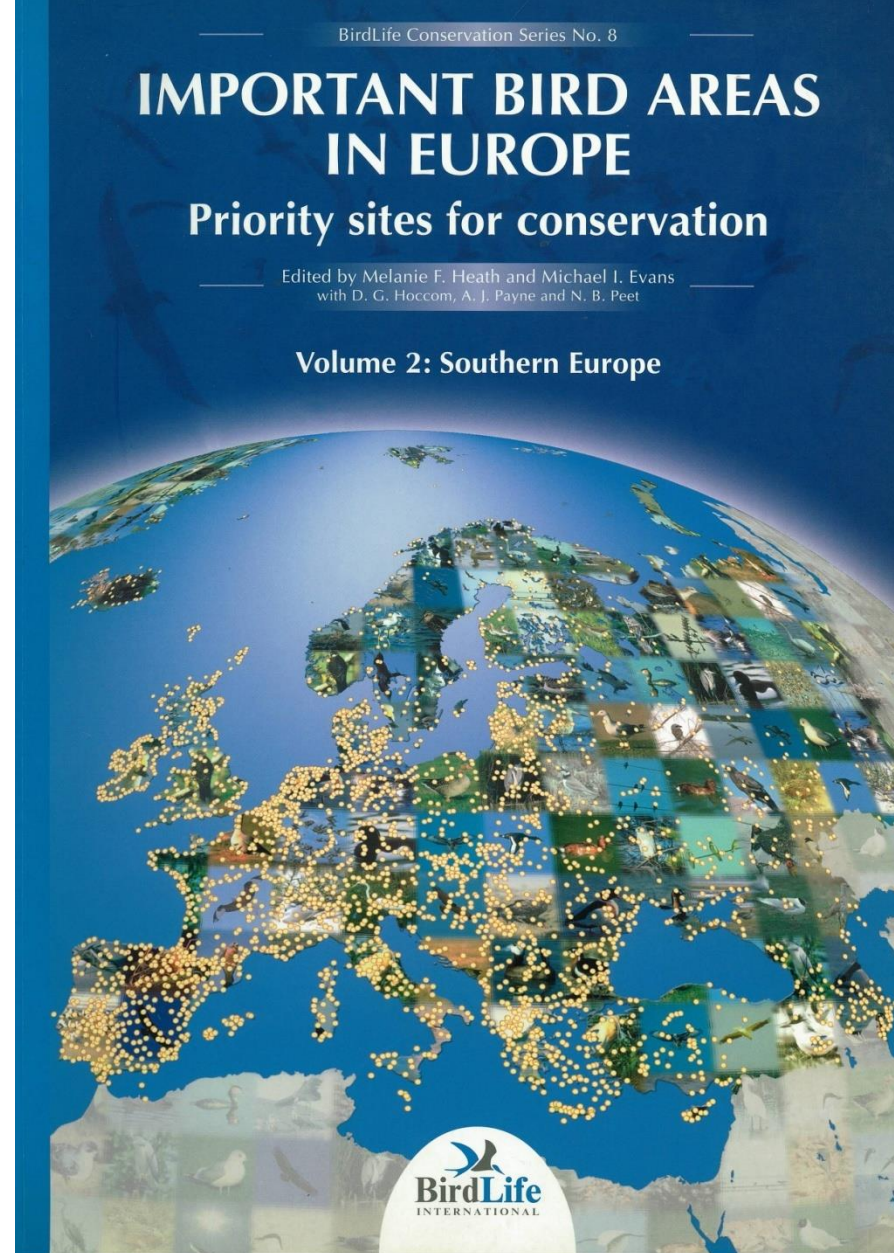


Additional bird criteria

- Site approach – IBA coverage
- Migratory birds not listed in Res. 6:
 - Not all species
 - Significant concentrations
 - Internationally agreed numeric criteria



- **AAA1:** The site is known to hold, on a regular basis, 20,000 or more waterbirds of one or more species or 10,000 or more pairs of seabirds for one or more species (IBA criterion A4iii);
- **AAA2:** The site is known to hold, 1% or more of flyway population or other distinct population of a waterbird species or other congregatory species (IBA criteria B1i and B1iii);
- **AAA3:** The site is a 'bottleneck site' hosting 5000 or more storks, 3000 or more raptors and cranes (IBA criterion B1iv).





How much is enough?

- No strict numeric mechanism for decision-making
- Decisions made as a result of discussion and exchange of opinions
- Case-to-case approach
- More sites needed for rare and threatened species
- Less sites for common and widespread species
- The '20-60%' principle not always relevant

Participants of the seminar

- Country delegation
- Council of Europe
- Evaluators
- NGOs
- Independent experts
- Observers





Seminars: order of opinions

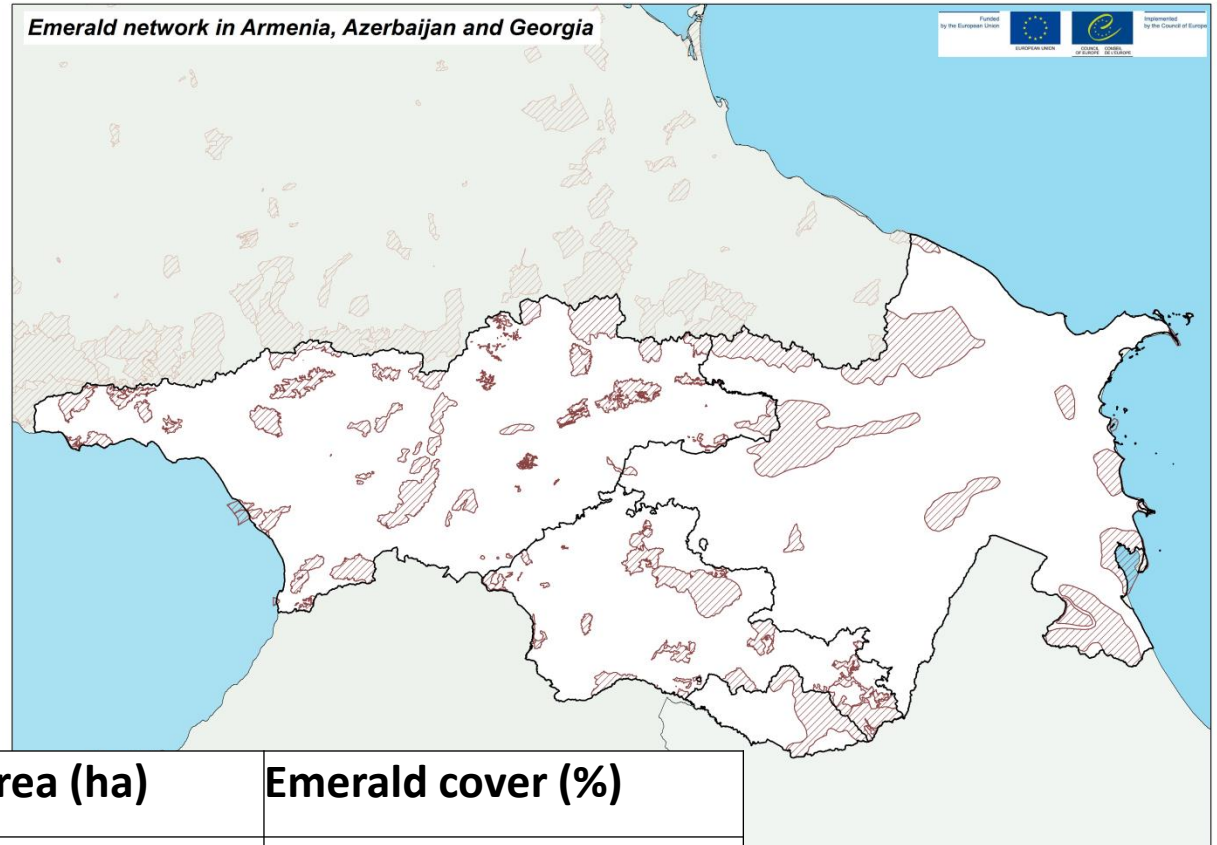
Chair: **Bern Convention Bureau/Secretariat**

1. **Experts/evaluators:** main facts about species/habitat and a proposed conclusion
2. **Government** (country delegation)
3. **NGOs**
4. **Independent experts** (if appropriate)
5. **Bern Convention Bureau/Secretariat:** conclusion





ASCIs in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia



Country	No of sites	Area (ha)	Emerald cover (%)
Armenia	21	497883	17
Azerbaijan	16	1609952	18
Georgia	54	1025579	14



Main problems during evaluation

- Misuse of population statuses in SDF (breeding/wintering, etc.)
- No numeric data in SDFs for Georgia
- Mismatch of GIS and tabular data
- Often obviously incomplete IBA data
- No independent expert



Agenda

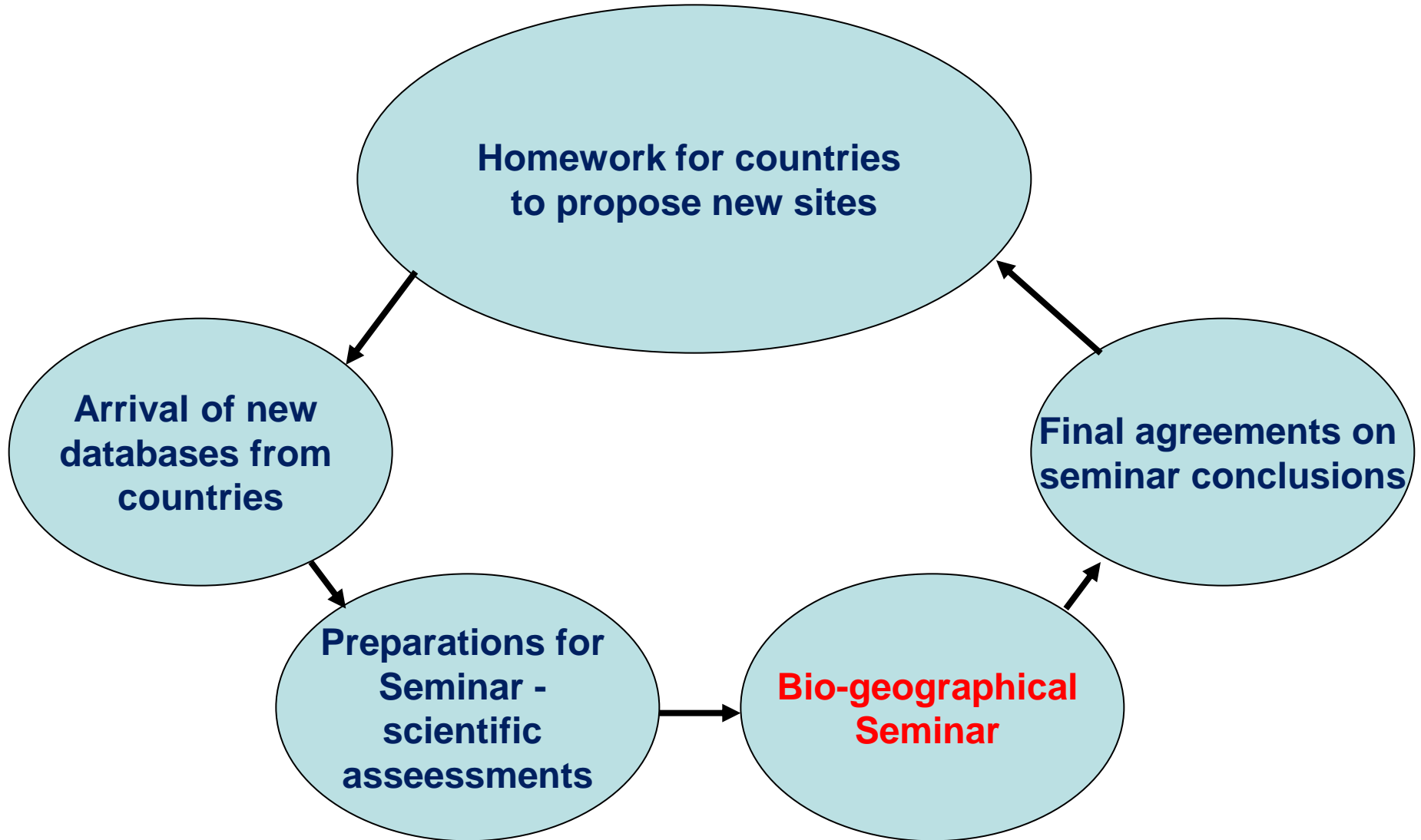
- We have approximately **400** conclusions to make during approximately **700** work-minutes;
- Therefore ... we should not waste time where conclusion is obvious and there are no objections from either side;
- ...please speak strictly on the subject – make your point clear and what conclusion you propose!
- ... collaborative attitude needed
- Agenda can be slightly adapted to meet some specific needs



Agenda: proposed sequence

Day 1 (1 December)	Day 2 (2 December)
Gaviiformes (O)	Charadriiformes (O)
Podicipediformes (O)	Strigiformes (O)
Procellariiformes (O)	Non Res. 6 migratory birds (O)
Anseriformes (O)	Columbiformes (M)
Falconiformes (O)	Caprimulgoformes (M)
Pelecaniformes (M)	Coraciiformes (M)
Ciconiiformes (M)	Piciformes (M)
Gruiformes (M)	Passeriformes (M)

Sufficiency evaluation cycle





Thank you for attention!