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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

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**1st meeting of the Restricted Group of Experts
on Biodiversity and Climate Change**
Paris, 14-15 June 2017

**PROPOSED GUIDELINES
FOR REPORTING BY PARTIES**

*Document
prepared by
Mr Brian Huntley, United Kingdom*

Bern Convention – Group of Experts on Climate Change and Biodiversity

PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING BY PARTIES

Brian Huntley – 22nd May 2017

RATIONALE

Parties to the Bern Convention are asked to provide regular reports to the Group of Experts on Climate Change and Biodiversity, hereafter the GECCB. Although the Parties have from time to time been issued with guidance on the areas to be covered by such reports (e.g. T-PVS/Inf (2012) 11), Appendix 1), this guidance has not focused attention sufficiently on reporting actions taken specifically to address Recommendations made by the GECCB. Furthermore, the reports elicited have been extremely variable in content, as well as in the extent to which they have addressed the specific Recommendations of the GECCB, as opposed to reporting much more generally on Parties' actions or proposed actions relating to the wider issues raised by climatic change. This lack of consistency renders difficult any continent-wide synthesis of the relevant actions taken by Parties, and of their progress towards implementing the Recommendations of the GECCB (see e.g. T-PVS/Inf (2012) 11).

Given this situation, and the urgent need to be able readily to synthesise and summarise progress, as well as to identify gaps, in the implementation of the Recommendations of the GECCB, the following Guidelines are proposed. The aim in proposing these Guidelines is to achieve, in future, a reporting system that is efficient and effective, focuses upon specific actions taken by the Parties to address and implement the Recommendations of the GECCB, and provides quantitative data on actions and the resulting outcomes. In turn, this will facilitate reporting by the GECCB to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention.

PROPOSED GUIDELINES

1. Parties are requested to submit biennially (i.e. every second year) to the GECCB a report on their progress in implementing the recommendations made by the GECCB and adopted by the Standing Committee.
2. Reports should focus upon practical actions taken that address specific Recommendations.
3. Reports should primarily focus upon actions taken during the reporting period, although these should be placed into the context of previous and planned actions.¹
4. Reports should provide quantitative data where relevant².
5. Reports should, whilst being succinct, provide adequate details of the actions taken to enable identification of good practice that may be adopted by other Parties.
6. Reports should be organised under the following headings that relate to specific activities identified for action in the current Work Programme:
 - a. Actions taken to implement Standing Committee Recommendation No. 159, including actions taken in co-operation with other Parties, with a focus upon actions addressing the following components of the Recommendation:
 - i. Enhancing the adaptive capacity of vulnerable species.

¹ For example: “Adaptive management plans, taking into account expected consequences of climatic change, have been developed and implemented for 10 protected areas during the reporting period. Seventy percent of our protected areas now have such plans in place and our target is to achieve 100% completion of this task within the next three years.”

² For example: In co-operation with relevant parties into whose territories their ranges extend, vulnerability assessments have been completed for 55 species that are classified as threatened by factors other than climatic change. A total of 90 species has now been assessed in this way, and we aim to complete assessments for all 240 threatened species found within our borders by 2020.

- ii. Minimising other pressures and threats on species and habitats that are most vulnerable to climatic change.
- iii. Implementing monitoring of, *inter alia*; species' population trends, species behaviour, including phenology, and climatic change impacts upon critical regions and/or habitats.
- iv. Developing ecological networks.
- v. Promoting and enhancing the permeability of landscapes generally.
- vi. Enhancing protected areas networks by increasing the extent of existing sites, designating new sites or establishing buffer zones, as appropriate.
- b. Contributions made with respect to the co-operative assessment of species' vulnerability.
- c. Actions taken to ensure that management plans for protected areas take into account, and respond to, the expected consequences of climatic change.
- d. Actions taken to implement adaptive management of protected areas.
- e. Actions taken to adopt, develop and/or share common monitoring approaches for:
 - i. Monitoring species' distributions and abundances so as to identify any impacts of climatic change.
 - ii. Monitoring the effectiveness of conservation measures, including protected area management.