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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

41st meeting

Strasbourg, 29 November - 3 December 2021

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CREATION OF
AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON REPORTING**

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

I. BACKGROUND

In 2012, the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention adopted [Resolution No. 8](#) regarding the national designation of adopted Emerald Network sites and the implementation of management, monitoring and reporting measures. According to the Resolution:

“Parties will report to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention on the conservation status of species and habitats listed in Resolutions No. 6 (1998) and No. 4 (1996) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention;

The report will be submitted in English, every six years from the date of adoption of this Resolution and shall reflect the previous period of six years;

The Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks will prepare a reporting format to be used for the purposes of this reporting.”

The reporting, aimed to evaluate progress towards meeting the Convention’s objectives and the efficiency of Parties’ conservation efforts does not focus on the Emerald Network although it considers the species and habitats listed on Resolution No. 6 (1998) and No. 4 (1996). Conservation status is the overall assessment of the status of a habitat type or a species at the scale of country biogeographical or marine region or at country scale for birds. Further details are available from the [Reference Portal for the Reporting under Resolution No. 8 \(2012\)](#).

In 2019, Contracting Parties reported for the first time on the conservation status of a sample of 46 features over the period 2013 – 2018. This first reporting round was considered a first attempt aimed to build up experience and capacity and pave the path for future reporting cycles.

While the first reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) used the reporting format adopted for reporting under Articles 12 and 17 of the EU Nature Directives, a pan-European assessment of the conservation status of the 46 features was challenging because of the limited number of reporting countries and the incompleteness of the reports received.

Within the frame of a survey, 17 non-EU Contracting Parties participating shared opinions on their experience from the first reporting, pointed to the obstacles for not participating in the reporting cycle and commented on the scope of the forthcoming reporting cycle covering the period 2019 – 2024 ([T-PVS/PA\(2021\)04](#)).

Following advice from the Group of Experts, the Standing Committee decided to set up an Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting entrusted with following up on the findings of the survey, addressing technical challenges and proposing a future reporting scheme.

II. SCOPE

The Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting will provide a dedicated cooperation platform for preparing the scope, format, methodology, tools of the reporting on the conservation status of species and habitats under Resolution No. 8 (2012). It will advise the Standing Committee in collaboration with the Bureau, independent experts and Secretariat in assessing the objectives of the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) and in developing the appropriate resources. Building on the outcomes of the survey on the experience and expectations of Contracting Parties from the reporting, the Ad hoc Working Group is requested to:

- Provide recommendations on the objectives and the expected outcomes of the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) in light of capacities and needs of Contracting Parties, in particular focussing on what sort of reporting and information is most useful for the purposes of the Convention and how to get that in the most cost-effective way;
- Provide advice on the scope of the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) in order to achieve the defined objectives and drawing on the experience of the first reporting round (2013-2018);
- Consider the extent to which it is technically feasible for the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) to be combined with information from the reporting under Articles 17 and 12 of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives to form a Pan-European overview. Taking into account the need for this to be done in a cost-

effective manner and to avoid a disproportionate reporting burden, provide recommendations on how to enable a Pan-European overview.

- Ensure consistency between the objectives, the scope and format of the reporting; Provide advice and guidance for the drafting of the supporting documentation and guidance and for the design of the reporting tool(s).
- Provide guidance on how to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge on the reporting on the conservation status of species and habitats listed in Resolutions No. 6 (1998) and No. 4 (1996) among a wide range of experts and stakeholders to involve them in the reporting process.
- Monitor progress of the preparation of the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012).
- Review results of the reporting cycle covering the period 2019 – 2024.

III. COMPOSITION

The Ad hoc Working Group will comprise relevant representatives of Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention and observers and may invite relevant third parties as deemed necessary.

The Ad hoc Working Group will select one Chair from amongst the Contracting Party members.

IV. WORKING METHODS

The Ad hoc Working Group members will provide input through meetings, conference calls, written contributions to draft papers, reports, and other means as appropriate.

The working language will be English.

The Ad hoc Working Group will determine its own meeting frequency; however, it is expected to two times in 2022 and will reconvene as required. The Ad hoc Working Group shall operate by online means and physical meetings as appropriate.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee will review and evaluate the work of the Ad hoc Working Group at the Bureau's meetings through the year.

In co-operation with the Chair, the Secretariat will coordinate and assist with the organisation and preparation of the agenda for the meetings of the Ad hoc Working Group and any other support activities deemed necessary.

V. TIME FRAME

The Ad hoc Working Group will develop a timeline for the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) which will guide the work of the Ad hoc Working Group, and provide clarity for Contracting Parties on what is expected to happen when.

The Ad hoc Working Group should provide updates on progress at the annual meetings of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks. The Ad hoc will report to the Standing Committee at its annual meeting.

The Ad hoc Working Group will continue until the results of the reporting cycle covering the period 2019 – 2024 have been collated and have been reviewed by the Standing Committee.