



Strasbourg, 26 September 2024

T-PVS(2024)12

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

WORKING GROUP
ON OVERSEEING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN
FOR THE BERN CONVENTION FOR THE PERIOD TO 2030

Operationalising the Strategic Plan's indicators – next steps

Document prepared by Mr Dave Pritchard

At its first meeting on 10th April 2024, the Working Group considered document T-PVS/Inf(2024)10 on [Advancing work on indicators for the Strategic Plan](#), which provides updated details of the suggested approach, metrics, data sources, baseline considerations, linkages, responsibilities and other information (to varying degrees) for each of the sixteen agreed indicators in the Plan.

At its second meeting on 29th August 2024, the Working Group considered document T-PVS(2024)06 [Strategic Plan indicators – results of Working Group consultation April-May 2024, and next steps](#), which included suggestions for specific actions to be taken to bring each of the indicators into practical operation. The table below now presents a revised list of these actions as agreed by the August meeting, incorporating input from the Working Group.

Document T-PVS(2024)06 showed that the different indicators are at varying states of potential readiness, so the timeframes for completing the suggested next actions will also vary. More detail on this will be developed as the Working Group continues its work, but the actions listed below provide a near-immediate starting point for arranging to measure progress on the adopted targets in the Plan.

Target	Indicator	Agreed next actions
1.1 Natural and semi-natural ecosystems are maintained and where possible restored or rehabilitated, leading to an overall increase in area, connectivity, integrity and resilience of the natural habitats referred to in the Convention and in Resolution No. 4 (1996).	1.1.a Trends in extent and condition of selected habitat and ecosystem types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proceed to use the Resolution No. 8 (2012) / Art. 17 process for this indicator, with GBF indicator A2 also playing a role. - With the assistance of the WG on Reporting, develop the detail of exact metrics, analysis and timeframes etc. - Work with IUCN SSC/CEM on accessing a Bern-relevant disaggregation of the Red List of Ecosystems.
	1.1.b Extent of degraded ecosystems under restoration (by ecosystem type)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proceed to use national data reported for GBF indicator 2.1 as the basis for this Bern Convention indicator 1.1.b. - Supplement the information with FAO's data on restoration initiatives and projects.
1.2 Coverage of natural habitats by the Emerald Network meets the sufficiency targets set for 2030 in the post-2020 Work Plan for the Network.	1.2 Emerald Network Sufficiency Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated information on the targets and other methodological issues concerning the Index, following the April 2024 GoEPAEN meeting, to be shared with the Strategic Plan Working Group when the details become available.
1.3 All sites included in the Emerald Network are effectively managed and subject to formal protection and other effective area-	1.3 (a) Extent to which protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) cover Emerald Network sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elaborate the detailed process (including allocation of responsibilities) for undertaking the digital polygon cross-matching analysis (and the repetition intervals for this) between the Emerald Network Database and the World Databases on PAs and OECMs. - Confer with UNEP-WCMC on World Databases analysis as mentioned above. - Confer with EEA and UNEP on input from the related SEBI indicator.

based conservation measures.	1.3 (b) Proportion of adopted Emerald Network sites with implemented management plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interpret “management plan” in accordance with the definition/interpretation in the Glossary contained in the adopted Strategic Plan. - With input from the GoEPAEN, develop the details of how the existence of implemented management plans for Emerald Network sites will be documented and reported, including use of the soon-to-be-revised Emerald Standard Data Form, and deciding intervals for updating the information. - Commission the compilation of a short guidance document on available (rapid, low-cost) methods for voluntarily assessing management effectiveness of PAs and OECMs.
1.4 The habitats that the Emerald Network aims to conserve are being maintained at, or progressing towards, a satisfactory conservation status.	1.4 Contribution of the Emerald Network to the conservation status of habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek input from WG on Reporting on the most feasible approaches for operating this indicator, in light of the earlier metadata document and latest views from the SP Working Group.
1.5 Specific recommendations arising from individual Case Files are followed up and acted upon; and cases are resolved and closed within a reasonable timeframe, taking account of any advice provided by the Standing Committee.	1.5.a [Indicator based on statistics concerning Case File recommendations (e.g. proportion implemented, partially implemented, not yet implemented)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore probable use of the methodology developed by the UK for tracking the status of Case File Recommendations, linked to the Convention’s Case File dashboard. - Decide on how/by whom impartial analysis of the collated statistics will be done. - Take account of relevant aspects of the method used by the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas for assessing progress on recommendations adopted within the Diploma process.
	1.5.b [Indicator based on statistics concerning numbers of Case Files (e.g. numbers per country; number of years each case has been on Standing Committee agendas)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigate further the current intentions regarding a Case File “barometer”, as a resource on which to base the operation of this indicator.
2.1 The species listed in the Appendices to the Bern Convention and in Appendix 1 to Resolution No. 6 (1998) are at or are recovering towards a satisfactory conservation status.	2.1 Conservation status of species, as reported under Resolution No. 8 (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proceed to use the reporting process under Resolution No. 8 (2012) (with EU Arts 17 & 12) as the basis for this indicator, with findings framed in the way outlined in document T-PVS/Inf(2024)10.
2.2 Anthropogenic causes of actual or potential negative effects on the conservation status of species of wild flora	2.2 Trends in frequency and severity of key anthropogenic pressures impacting on species of wild flora and fauna, as reported under	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with the Working Group on Reporting to develop the details of methods and data to be provided for this indicator, following the relevant data fields in the report format it has produced.

and fauna are reduced as far as possible to levels that are not detrimental to the conservation and recovery of those species, through targeted measures enacted in legislation, policy and/or management.	Resolution No. 8 (2012) and the EU Nature Directives	
3.1 The natural environment thrives, thereby benefiting people’s livelihoods, food and water security, community resilience, well-being and quality of life.	3.1.a Nature-based quality of life assessment (qualitative summary overview)	- Use a subset of information that will feed into GBF indicator B1 as the basis for this indicator 3.1.a. - In light of experience that will emerge as countries begin to operate the GBF indicator (and possible further illumination during CBD COP16), decide on a common “core set” of priority ecosystem services (chosen from the global reference list) to be recommended for inclusion in a Bern Convention “cut” of GBF indicator B1 information.
	3.1.b Trends in air quality	- WG members to provide further views on a preferred choice from existing air quality indicator regimes (including those identified in in document T-PVS/Inf(2024)10) as the basis for operating Bern SP indicator 3.1.b.
	3.1.c Trends in water quality	- WG members to provide further views on a preferred choice from existing water quality indicator regimes (including those identified in in document T-PVS/Inf(2024)10) as the basis for operating Bern SP indicator 3.1.c.
3.2 Conservation and sustainable use of nature contributes positively to measures relating to human rights, democracy, landscape management, cultural heritage and physical and mental health, and to the prevention and mitigation of major hazards.	3.2 Single review assessment of the contribution made by the conservation and sustainable use of nature under the Bern Convention to other fields of action under the Council of Europe	- Delegate a task to a sub-group or individual to develop a draft Terms of Reference document for the envisaged “single review assessment”, drawing on inputs made to date and other consultations, including further input from the Working Group and advice from the Bureau.
3.3 Nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches implemented by Bern Convention Parties contribute to the mitigation	3.3 Number of initiatives involving nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches as reported in Nationally Determined Contributions under the UNFCCC,	- Delegate a task to a sub-group or individual to develop a draft Terms of Reference document (with input from the wider Working Group) for a single assessment of NDC information to provide the basis for this indicator.

of climate change and the adaptation to its effects.	with ecosystem extent data where available	
4.1 Sufficient resources and capacity, including scientific and technical cooperation, are available to achieve all the goals and targets in the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention.	4.1 Resources and capacity available at international level for implementing the Strategic Plan, as assessed for each financial planning period by the Standing Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat to advise on the intended process for generating summary data on the overall total budgets for operating the Convention and available capacity in terms of the Secretariat, Groups of Experts, training initiatives and other resources, as the basis for operating this indicator. - Discuss further how information from reporting on the indicators for GBF Goal D might usefully augment the picture provided by this indicator.
Other matters		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat and Chair to advise on best methods/timing for sharing materials with the Working Group on Reporting and ensuring coordination of related work between that Group and the Strategic Plan WG. - Reinforce encouragement/support for cross-representation between the Strategic Plan WG and other Groups, including the standing invitation for Chairs of other Groups to participate in the Strategic Plan WG. - Adhere closely to the stated principles concerning efficient use of existing monitoring and data regimes and avoidance of unnecessary reporting burdens, and maintain vigilance for any significant capacity-related implications that may arise in this regard. - Secretariat, with the assistance of the Chair and Consultant, to develop a suggested outline/ contents list for the anticipated Monitoring & Evaluation Guide.