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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Group of Experts on
Protected Areas and Ecological Networks**

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Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France

**Harmonisation between the lists of habitat types targeted
by Resolution No.4 (1996) of the Bern Convention and
Annex I of the Habitats Directive:
Draft revised Annex I of Resolution No.4 (1996)**

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Background

When adopting Resolution No.3 (1996) of the Bern Convention which encourages Contracting Parties to set up a pan- European Ecological Network, and Resolution No.5 (1998), which gives the framework for the Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs) under the Emerald Network, Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention aimed at ensuring maximum consistency between the Emerald and the EU Natura 2000 approaches.

Resolution No.5 (1998) further states that “for Contracting Parties which are Member States of the European Union, Emerald Network sites are those of the Natura 2000 [the EU network of protected areas under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives]”. One of the aims was that the Emerald approach should help EU candidate countries to prepare for the Natura 2000 process.

However the lists of habitat types for which sites should be proposed under each legal instrument (Annex I of the Habitats Directive and Resolution 4 of the Bern Convention) have major differences which have increased as the number of Annex I habitat types has increased from 192 to 233 as a result of EU Enlargement.

A paper discussing this issue was presented to the 4th meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks¹ (2012) and Contracting Parties were asked for comments in writing. The only comments came from an NGO who supported the principal of revising Annex I of Resolution No.4.

Following the proposals presented in September 2012, a draft Revised Annex I of Resolution No.4 has been prepared (see Table 2 below). As well as adding new habitat types, some existing types have been enlarged (e.g. a level 3 unit is listed rather than 1 or more of its component level 4 units) where the Annex I habitat type is larger than the previous Resolution No.4 habitat, in some cases this has led to some simplification. For example the habitat type ‘E5.4 Moist or wet tall-herb and fern fringes and meadows’ is proposed which as well as fully covering the related Annex I habitat types would replace 6 existing habitat types at levels 5 and 6.

In a few cases suggestions have been made for further simplification, for example 7 level 4 habitat types could be replaced by ‘E4.3 Acid alpine and subalpine grassland’ although this would extend the variation covered (in this case including the closely related ‘E4.33 Thermo-Alpigenous subalpine acidophilous grassland’ ‘E4.35 Oro-Hellenic closed grassland’, ‘E4.3A Western Asian acidophilous alpine grassland’ and ‘E4.3B Illyrian alpine and subalpine acid open grasslands’).

This proposal would increase the number of Resolution 4 habitat types from 203 to 275. The changes per habitat group are shown in Table 1 below.

The Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks is called to study and discuss the proposed changes to the list of targeted habitats and if agreed so, to forward the draft revised Annex I to the Resolution to the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention for formal adoption.

¹ Evans, D (2012) Harmonisation between lists of habitat types targeted by Resolution 4 (2010) of the Bern Convention and Annex I of the Habitats Directive. T-PVS/PA (2012) 9, Council of Europe, Strasbourg. [<https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&InstranetImage=2130808&SecMode=1&DocId=1916350&Usage=2>]

Table 1: Changes proposed for Resolution No.4 per EUNIS habitat group

Group	Add	Enlarge
A : Marine habitats	0	0
B : Coastal habitats	5	0
C : Inland surface waters	15	3
D : Mires, bogs and fens	1	0
E : Grasslands and lands dominated by forbs, mosses or lichens	19	3
F : Heathland, scrub and tundra	19	1
G : Woodland, forest and other wooded land	10	4
H : Inland unvegetated or sparsely vegetated habitats	11	1
I : Regularly or recently cultivated agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats	0	0
J : Constructed, industrial and other artificial habitats	0	0
X : Habitat complexes	1	0

Table 2: Draft Revised Annex I of Resolution No.4 (1996)

EUNIS code	EUNIS name	Comments
A1.11	Mussel and/or barnacle communities	
A1.141	Association with <i>Lithophyllum byssoides</i>	
A1.22	Mussels and fucoids on moderately exposed shores	
A1.44	Communities of littoral caves and overhangs	
A2.2	Littoral sand and muddy sand	
A2.3	Littoral mud	
A2.4	Littoral mixed sediments	
A2.5	Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	
A2.61	Seagrass beds on littoral sediments	
A2.621	<i>Eleocharis</i> beds	
A2.72	Littoral mussel beds on sediment	
A3	Infralittoral rock and other hard substrata	
A4	Circolittoral rock and other hard substrata	
A5	Sublittoral sediment	
A6.911	Seeps in the deep-sea bed	
B1.1	Sand beach driftlines	add
B1.3	Shifting coastal dunes	
B1.4	Coastal stable dune grassland (grey dunes)	
B1.5	Coastal dune heaths	
B1.6	Coastal dune scrub	
B1.7	Coastal dune woods	
B1.8	Moist and wet dune slacks	
B1.9	Machair	
B2.1	Shingle beach driftlines	add
B2.3	Upper shingle beaches with open vegetation	
B2.1	Shingle beach driftlines	add
B3.24	Unvegetated Baltic rocky shores and cliffs	add
B3.3	Rock cliffs, ledges and shores, with angiosperms	add
C1.1	Permanent oligotrophic lakes, ponds and pools	
C1.222	Floating <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i> rafts	
C1.223	Floating <i>Stratiotes aloides</i> rafts	
C1.224	Floating <i>Utricularia australis</i> and <i>Utricularia</i>	

EUNIS code	EUNIS name	Comments
	<i>vulgaris</i> colonies	
C1.225	Floating <i>Salvinia natans</i> mats	
C1.226	Floating <i>Aldrovanda vesiculosa</i> communities	
C1.2416	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> beds	
C1.24113	Transylvanian hot-spring lotus beds	add
C1.25	Charophyte submerged carpets in mesotrophic waterbodies	
C1.32	Free-floating vegetation of eutrophic waterbodies	add
C1.33	Rooted submerged vegetation of eutrophic waterbodies	add
C1.3411	<i>Ranunculus</i> communities in shallow water	
C1.3413	<i>Hottonia palustris</i> beds in shallow water	
C1.4	Permanent dystrophic lakes, ponds and pools	enlarge (was C1.44 Charophyte submerged carpets in dystrophic waterbodies)
C1.5	Permanent inland saline and brackish lakes, ponds and pools	
C1.66	Temporary inland saline and brackish waters	
C1.67	Turlough and lake-bottom meadows	
C1.33	Rooted submerged vegetation of eutrophic waterbodies	add
C2.111	Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and springfens	add
C2.12	Hard water springs	
C2.18	Acid oligotrophic vegetation of spring brooks	add
C2.19	Lime-rich oligotrophic vegetation of spring brooks	add
C2.1A	Mesotrophic vegetation of spring brooks	add
C2.1B	Eutrophic vegetation of spring brooks	add
C2.25	Acid oligotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams	add
C2.26	Lime-rich oligotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams	add
C2.27	Mesotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams	add
C2.28	Eutrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams	add
C2.33	Mesotrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers	add
C2.34	Eutrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers	add
C3.4	Species-poor beds of low-growing water-fringing or amphibious vegetation	enlarge (was C3.41 Euro-Siberian perennial amphibious communities C3.421 Short Mediterranean amphibious communities C3.422 Tall Mediterranean amphibious communities C3.431 Ponto-Pannonic riverbank dwarf sedge communities)
C3.51	Euro-Siberian dwarf annual amphibious swards (but excluding C3.5131 Toad-rush swards)	enlarge (was C3.511 : Freshwater dwarf <i>Eleocharis</i> communities C3.512 : Dune-slack <i>Centaureum</i> swards C3.5132 : Swards of small

EUNIS code	EUNIS name	Comments
		<i>Cyperus</i> species C3.5133 : Wet ground dwarf herb communities)
C3.55	Sparsely vegetated river gravel banks	
C3.62	Unvegetated river gravel banks	
D1.2	Blanket bogs	
D2.226	Peri-Danubian black-white-star sedge fens	
D2.3	Transition mires and quaking bogs	
D3.1	Palsa mires	
D3.2	Aapa mires	
D3.3	Polygon mires	
D4.1	Rich fens, including eutrophic tall-herb fens and calcareous flushes and soaks	
D4.2	Basic mountain flushes and streamsides, with a rich arctic-montane flora	
D5.2	Beds of large sedges normally without free-standing water	
D6.1	Inland saltmarshes	
D6.23	Interior Iberian salt pan meadows	add
E1.11	Euro-Siberian rock debris swards	enlarge (was E1.112 <i>Sempervivum</i> or <i>Jovibarba</i> communities on rock debris)
E1.115	Fenno-Scandian pioneer rock swards	add
E1.12	Euro-Siberian pioneer calcareous sand swards	add
E1.2	Perennial calcareous grassland and basic steppes	
E1.3	Mediterranean xeric grassland	
E1.55	Eastern sub-Mediterranean dry grassland	add
E1.71	<i>Nardus stricta</i> swards	
E1.72	<i>Agrostis</i> - <i>Festuca</i> grassland	add
E1.83	Mediterraneo-montane <i>Nardus stricta</i> swards	
E1.9	Open non-Mediterranean dry acid and neutral grassland, including inland dune grassland	add
E1.B	Heavy-metal grassland	
E2.15	Macaronesian mesic grassland	add
E2.2	Low and medium altitude hay meadows	enlarge (was E2.25 Continental meadows)
E2.3	Mountain hay meadows	add
E3.1	Mediterranean tall humid grassland	
E3.3	E3.3 Sub-mediterranean humid meadows	Not included in 2012 report, required for Annex I habit '6540 Sub-Mediterranean grasslands of the <i>Molinio-Hordeion secalini</i> ' (added in 2013)
E3.4	Moist or wet eutropic and mesotrophic grassland	
E3.5	Moist or wet oligotrophic grassland	
E4.11	Boreo-alpine acidocline snow-patch grassland and herb habitats	add
E4.12	Boreo-alpine calcicline snow-patch grassland and herb habitats	add
E4.31	Alpic <i>Nardus stricta</i> swards and related	add

EUNIS code	EUNIS name	Comments
	communities	or E4.3 : Acid alpine and subalpine grassland (slightly wider in scope than Annex I)
E4.32	Oroboreal acidocline grassland	add or E4.3 : Acid alpine and subalpine grassland (slightly wider in scope than Annex I)
E4.34	Alpigenous acidophilous grassland	add or E4.3 : Acid alpine and subalpine grassland (slightly wider in scope than Annex I)
E4.36	Oro-Iberian acidophilous grassland	add or E4.3 : Acid alpine and subalpine grassland (slightly wider in scope than Annex I)
E4.37	Oro-Corsican grassland	add or E4.3 : Acid alpine and subalpine grassland (slightly wider in scope than Annex I)
E4.38	Oro-Apennine closed grassland	add or E4.3 : Acid alpine and subalpine grassland (slightly wider in scope than Annex I)
E4.39	Oro-Moesian acidophilous grassland	add or E4.3 : Acid alpine and subalpine grassland (slightly wider in scope than Annex I)
E4.4	Calcareous alpine and subalpine grassland	add
E5.4	Moist or wet tall-herb and fern fringes and meadows	enlarge (was E5.4111 <i>Angelica archangelica</i> fluvial communities E5.4112 <i>Angelica heterocarpa</i> fluvial communities E5.4113 <i>Althaea officinalis</i> screens E5.414 Continental river bank tall-herb communities dominated by <i>Filipendula</i> E5.423 Continental tall-herb communities of humid meadows E5.424 Eastern nemoral tall herb communities of humid meadows)
E5.5	Subalpine moist or wet tall-herb and fern stands	add
E6.1	Mediterranean inland salt steppes	
E6.2	Continental inland salt steppes	
E7.3	Dehesa	
F2.22	Alpide acidocline <i>Rhododendron</i> heaths	extend (was F2.224 Carpathian <i>Rhododendron kotschyi</i> heaths & F2.225 Balkan <i>Rhododendron kotschyi</i> heaths)

EUNIS code	EUNIS name	Comments
F2.26	<i>Bruckenthalia</i> heaths	
F2.32	Subalpine and oroboreal <i>Salix</i> brush	add
F2.336	Rhodope <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> thickets	add
F2.41	Inner Alpine <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub	add
F2.42	Outer Alpine <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub	add
F2.43	Southwestern <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub	add
F2.44	Apennine <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub	add
F2.45	Hercynian <i>Pinus mugo</i> scrub	add
F3.12	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> thickets	add
F3.16	<i>Juniperus communis</i> scrub	add
F3.21	Montane <i>Cytisus purgans</i> fields	add
F3.241	Central European subcontinental thickets	
F3.245	Eastern Mediterranean deciduous thickets	add
F3.247	Ponto-Sarmatic deciduous thickets	add
F4.1	Wet heaths	
F4.2	Dry heaths	
F4.3	Macaronesian heaths	
F5.13	Juniper matorral	add
F5.171	Iberian arid zone <i>Ziziphus</i> matorral	add
F5.18	<i>Laurus nobilis</i> matorral	add
F5.516	<i>Laurus</i> thickets	add
F5.517	Coastal <i>Helichrysum</i> garrigues	add
F5.51G	Tall spiny broom brush	add
F5.52	<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i> formations	
F5.53	<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanica</i> -dominated garrigues	add
F5.54	<i>Chamaerops humilis</i> brush	
F5.55	Mediterranean pre-desert scrub	
F5.56	Thermo-Mediterranean broom fields (retamares)	
F5.5B	Cabo de Sao Vicente brushes	
F6.7	Mediterranean gypsum scrubs	
F6.8	Xero-halophile scrubs	
F7	Spiny Mediterranean heaths (phrygana, hedgehog-heaths and related coastal cliff vegetation)	
F9.1	Riverine scrub	
F9.3	Southern riparian galleries and thickets	amend to exclude F9.35 : Riparian stands of invasive shrubs ?
G1.11	Riverine <i>Salix</i> woodland	
G1.12	Boreo-alpine riparian galleries	
G1.13	Southern <i>Alnus</i> and <i>Betula</i> galleries	
G1.21	Riverine <i>Fraxinus</i> - <i>Alnus</i> woodland, wet at high but not at low water	
G1.22	Mixed <i>Quercus</i> - <i>Ulmus</i> - <i>Fraxinus</i> woodland of great rivers	enlarge (was G1.221 Great medio-European fluvial forests G1.223 Southeast European <i>Fraxinus</i> - <i>Quercus</i> - <i>Alnus</i> forests G1.224 Po <i>Quercus</i> - <i>Fraxinus</i> -

EUNIS code	EUNIS name	Comments
		<i>Alnus</i> forests)
G1.31	Mediterranean riparian <i>Populus</i> forests	add or G1.3 : Mediterranean riparian woodland (would add G1.32 : Mediterranean riparian <i>Ulmus</i> forests & G1.33 : Mediterranean riparian <i>Fraxinus</i> woods)
G1.36	Ponto-Sarmatic mixed <i>Populus</i> riverine forests	consider G1.3 : Mediterranean riparian woodland (would add G1.32 : Mediterranean riparian <i>Ulmus</i> forests & G1.33 : Mediterranean riparian <i>Fraxinus</i> woods)
G1.37	Irano-Anatolian mixed riverine forests	consider G1.3 : Mediterranean riparian woodland (would add G1.32 : Mediterranean riparian <i>Ulmus</i> forests & G1.33 : Mediterranean riparian <i>Fraxinus</i> woods)
G1.38	<i>Platanus orientalis</i> woods	consider G1.3 : Mediterranean riparian woodland (would add G1.32 : Mediterranean riparian <i>Ulmus</i> forests & G1.33 : Mediterranean riparian <i>Fraxinus</i> woods)
G1.39	<i>Liquidambar orientalis</i> woods	consider G1.3 : Mediterranean riparian woodland (would add G1.32 : Mediterranean riparian <i>Ulmus</i> forests & G1.33 : Mediterranean riparian <i>Fraxinus</i> woods)
G1.4115	Eastern Carpathian <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> swamp woods	
G1.414	Steppe swamp <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> woods	
G1.44	Wet-ground woodland of the Black and Caspian Seas	
G1.51	Sphagnum <i>Betula</i> woods	
G1.6	<i>Fagus</i> woodland	
G1.7	Thermophilous deciduous woodland	
G1.8	Acidophilous <i>Quercus</i> -dominated woodland	
G1.917	Oroboreal <i>Betula</i> woods and thickets	add
G1.918	Eurasian boreal <i>Betula</i> woods	add
G1.925	Boreal <i>Populus tremula</i> woods	add
G1.A1	<i>Quercus</i> - <i>Fraxinus</i> - <i>Carpinus betulus</i> woodland on eutrophic and mesotrophic soils	
G1.A4	Ravine and slope woodland	

EUNIS code	EUNIS name	Comments
G1.A7	Mixed deciduous woodland of the Black and Caspian Seas	
G1.B3	Boreal and boreonemoral <i>Alnus</i> woods	add
G2	Broadleaved evergreen woodland	
G3.134	Holy Cross fir forests	add
G3.15	Southern Apennine <i>Abies alba</i> forests	
G3.16	Moesian <i>Abies alba</i> forests	
G3.17	Balkano-Pontic <i>Abies</i> forests	
G3.19	<i>Abies pinsapo</i> forests	
G3.1B	Alpine and Carpathian subalpine <i>Picea</i> forests	
G3.1C	Inner range montane <i>Picea</i> forests	
G3.1D	Hercynian subalpine <i>Picea</i> forests	
G3.1E	Southern European <i>Picea abies</i> forests	enlarge (was G3.1E1 : Southeastern Moesian <i>Picea abies</i> forests G3.1E3 : Montenegrine <i>Picea abies</i> forests G3.1E4 : Pelagonide <i>Picea abies</i> forests G3.1E5 : Balkan Range <i>Picea abies</i> forests
G3.1F	Enclave <i>Picea abies</i> forests	add
G3.1G	<i>Picea omorika</i> forests	
G3.1H	<i>Picea orientalis</i> forests	
G3.21	Eastern Alpine siliceous <i>Larix</i> and <i>Pinus cembra</i> forests	
G3.22	Eastern Alpine calcicolous <i>Larix</i> and <i>Pinus cembra</i> forests	
G3.25	Carpathian <i>Larix</i> and <i>Pinus cembra</i> forests	
G3.26	<i>Larix polonica</i> forests	
G3.31	<i>Pinus uncinata</i> forests with <i>Rhododendron ferrugineum</i>	
G3.32	Xerocline <i>Pinus uncinata</i> forests	
G3.41	Caledonian forest	
G3.4232	Sarmatic steppe <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests	
G3.4233	Carpathian steppe <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> woods	
G3.4234	Pannonic steppe <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> woods	
G3.442	Carpathian relict calcicolous <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests	
G3.4C	Southeastern European <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests	
G3.4E	Ponto-Caucasian <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> forests	
G3.5	<i>Pinus nigra</i> woodland (but excluding G3.57 : <i>Pinus nigra</i> reforestation)	enlarge (was G3.51 : Alpino-Apennine <i>Pinus nigra</i> forests G3.52 : Western Balkanic <i>Pinus nigra</i> forests G3.53 : <i>Pinus salzmannii</i> forests G3.54 : Corsican <i>Pinus laricio</i> forests G3.55 : Calabrian <i>Pinus laricio</i> forests G3.56 : <i>Pinus pallasiana</i> and

EUNIS code	EUNIS name	Comments
		<i>Pinus banatica</i> forests
G3.6	Subalpine mediterranean <i>Pinus</i> woodland	
G3.7	Lowland to montane mediterranean <i>Pinus</i> woodland (excluding <i>Pinus nigra</i>)	enlarge (was all 4 sub classes of G.371 noted individually G3.72 : <i>Pinus pinaster</i> ssp. <i>pinaster</i> (<i>Pinus mesogeensis</i>) forests, G3.73 : <i>Pinus pinea</i> forests 9 sub classes of G.374 noted individually & all units of G3.75 : <i>Pinus brutia</i> forests
G3.8	Canary Island <i>Pinus canariensis</i> woodland	
G3.9	Coniferous woodland dominated by <i>Cupressaceae</i> or <i>Taxaceae</i>	
G3.A	<i>Picea</i> taiga woodland	add
G3.B	<i>Pinus</i> taiga woodland	add
G3.D	Boreal bog conifer woodland	
G3.E	Nemoral bog conifer woodland	
H1	Terrestrial underground caves, cave systems, passages and waterbodies	
H2.1	Cold siliceous screes	add or H2 Screes ?
H2.2	Cold limestone screes	add or H2 Screes ?
H2.3	Temperate-montane acid siliceous screes	add or H2 Screes ?
H2.4	Temperate-montane calcareous and ultra-basic screes	add or H2 Screes ?
H2.5	Acid siliceous screes of warm exposures	add or H2 Screes ?
H2.6	Calcareous and ultra-basic screes of warm exposures	extend (was H2.613 Paris Basin screes) or H2 Screes ?
H3.1	Acid siliceous inland cliffs	add
H3.2	Basic and ultra-basic inland cliffs	add
H3.511	Limestone pavements	add
H4.2	Ice caps and true glaciers	add
H4.3	Rock glaciers and unvegetated ice-dominated moraines	add
H6	Recent volcanic features	add
X01	Estuaries	
X02	Saline coastal lagoons	
X03	Brackish coastal lagoons	
X04	Raised bog complexes	
X09	Pasture woods (with a tree layer overlying pasture)	wider than 6530 Fennoscandian wooded meadows but widely recognised as threatened, add 'Fennoscandian' as qualifier ?
X18	Wooded steppe	

EUNIS code	EUNIS name	Comments
X29	Salt lake islands	
X35	New EUNIS complex! "Inland Sand Dunes"	