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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

33rd meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2013

REPORT

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

PART I – OPENING

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2013) 1 - Draft agenda
T-PVS (2013) 18 - Annotated draft agenda

The Chair opened the 33rd meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention on 3rd December 2013 at 9.30 am. The draft agenda was adopted without amendments.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DELEGATIONS AND FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Relevant document: T-PVS (2013) 2 and 10 - Reports of the Bureau meetings in April and September 2013

In his introductory remarks the Chair, Mr Jan Plesnik, highlighted the participation of Belarus as the 51st Contracting Party to the Convention and congratulated the country for its accession. He further greeted Ms Claudia Luciana, Director of the Directorate of Democratic Governance and thanked her for the continued commitment towards the Convention's activities. He also thanked Norway for the withdrawal, on 8th November 2013, of the objections presented in 1991 concerning Article 17, regarding more particularly some plant species (bryophyte species and *Dracocephalum ruyschiana*) as well as for submitting officially its first list of Candidate Emerald sites.

Mr Plesnik further presented the Chairman's report, informing that the work programme of activities for 2013 had been successfully completed in conformity with the decisions taken the previous year. In this respect, he acknowledged the excellent work carried out by the Secretariat, the Bureau members and the Parties for ensuring that the Convention remains a treaty focussed on concrete implementation of nature conservation policies and measures.

Mr Plesnik informed that in 2013 the Bureau supervised the implementation of the Programme of Activities and dealt thoroughly with the pending complaints. It further discussed and put in place some improvement to the current practices, namely regarding the reporting requests to Parties on complaints, which proved to be efficient since the reporting rate has shown an increase. Moreover, the number of complaints submitted to the Secretariat has also been increasing for the third consecutive year, clearly demonstrating that the communication on the Convention's tools and mechanisms is working well and that this instrument is becoming more familiar to European citizens.

Besides, Mr Plesnik highlighted that complaints should not be considered merely as the indicator of a problem, but rather as a tool for putting forward and implementing innovative solutions.

In addition, the Bureau examined budgetary matters in view of both the preparation of the programme of activities and budget for the next biennium, as well as for making proposals for ensuring more predictable and sustainable financial system for the Convention.

Furthermore, the Chair detailed the outcomes of the meetings of the Bern Convention's Groups of Experts emphasising on the numerous draft documents which were forwarded to the Standing Committee for analysis and possible adoption. In this respect, Mr Plesnik highlighted the very good quality background documents produced by the various experts and consultants, whom he thanked for their contribution.

Finally, the Chair acknowledged more particularly the fruitful partnership and co-operation engaged with both the European Environment Agency (and its European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity), as well as with the European Union and concluded by thanking all the Parties which hosted a Bern Convention meeting or made additional financial contributions thus ensuring the successful implementation of the Programme of Activities.

Ms Claudia Luciani, Director of Democratic Governance, welcomed Contracting Parties, observer countries and representatives from other international biodiversity-related conventions, international inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, national NGOs and independent experts. She further addressed a special welcome to Belarus for joining the Convention and to the INTERPOL,

noting that a possible future partnership on wildlife crime issues would certainly enrich both Institutions.

Ms Luciani emphasised on the high number of activities implemented under the Convention in 2013, as well as on the results obtained despite a difficult economic context. She congratulated more particularly the Parties and the Bureau for having devoted particular attention to analysing the financing of the Convention, and suggesting proposals for improving the efficiency in the level of expenditure without prejudice to the Convention's objectives. Ms Luciani further expressed her appreciation for the level of commitment and the political interest showed by the Parties towards the Convention, as demonstrated also by the level of additional financial and in-kind contributions.

She further thanked the European Union for financing the Emerald Network joint project, as well as the non-governmental organisations and all the experts for their contribution to dealing with the most technical aspects of the Bern Convention Programme of Activities.

Besides, Ms Luciani presented the general outline of the Council of Europe Programme and Budget for 2014-2015, adopted a week before the Standing Committee meeting. She also informed that the re-organisation of DG-II has been completed and that the Convention is included in the "Diversity" sector of activities, in a specific programme called "Valuing culture and natural diversity". In Ms Luciani's view the new Council of Europe Programme of Activities is a well-conceived instrument for reconciling economic activities, ecological balance, social cohesion and diversity with innovative models.

Ms Luciani ended her speech by reaffirming to the Parties her very high personal commitment to the activities of the Council of Europe in the area of nature conservation.

Conclusions: The Committee took note of the information presented by the Chair and the Secretariat on the implementation of the Programme of Activities for 2013, as well as on the newly adopted Council of Europe Programme and Budget for 2014-2015, in which the Convention appears under the chapter "Valuing culture and natural heritage".

The Committee further thanked Ms Claudia Luciani, Director of the Directorate of Democratic Governance, for reiterating her strong support in favour of the Council of Europe activities in the field of biodiversity.

PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS

3. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION

3.1 Biennial reports 2009 – 2010, 2011 – 2012, concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 and quadrennial reports 2009 – 2012

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 29 - Biennial Reports 2009-2010
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 30 – Biennial Reports 2011-2012
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 19 – General Reports 2009-2012
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 5 - Summary tables of reporting under the Bern Convention

The Secretariat recalled that, in conformity with Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, Parties having made exceptions to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 shall present these exceptions in writing. The Secretariat further recalled that, since the adoption of the Updated model form for biennial reports in 2011, "*European Community States do not need to report on exceptions regarding birds, as the European Community will cover that obligation for all its Member States*". However, they still need to report on exceptions applying to all the other species and habitats listed in the Convention's appendices.

The Secretariat further informed that the EU, Iceland and Italy submitted this year reports for exceptions made in 2009-2010, bringing to twenty-five the number of Parties having declared exceptions for that period.

Moreover, Armenia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Morocco, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” were among the first parties to report on exceptions made for the period 2011/2012.

Generally, the reports received mainly inform about exceptions made for study and research purposes, and in very few cases for reasons of public health. In most of the cases the impact is declared to be inexistent or very low.

The Chair concluded by recalling that the biennial reports are made public to enable NGOs, local people and other stakeholders concerned with nature conservation to participate in the monitoring of the Convention.

Conclusion: The Committee took note of the 15 biennial reports submitted in 2013 and stressed that these are published in order to enable NGOs, local people and other stakeholders concerned with nature conservation to participate in the monitoring of the Convention.

The Committee further invited the Contracting Parties which have not yet fulfilled the reporting obligations set under Article 9 to do so as soon as possible. The Committee further thanked Andorra, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Norway and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” who submitted General reports for 2009-2012 on a voluntary basis.

PART III - INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

4. ACCESSION OF BELARUS TO THE BERN CONVENTION

4.1 Report of the visit of representatives of the Secretariat to the Republic of Belarus and Round Table dedicated to the accession of the country to the Convention

Relevant document: T-PVS/Notes (2013) 5 – Report of the visit of the Secretariat to the Republic of Belarus

The Secretariat informed on a visit paid to Minsk on 2nd July 2013 to have an exchange of views with Belarus’ authorities about their specific needs regarding nature conservation.

On that occasion, the Secretariat met with the Vice-minister of the Environment and other high officials of the Biodiversity, Forests and International Relations Department, and presented the main aims, structures and methods of the Convention, including the work of the Groups of Experts and the system of complaints. The visit was also the occasion for the country to reaffirm its strong commitment to the biological diversity conservation and management, as well as its appreciation for the support of the Council of Europe in the setting-up of the Emerald Network. A technical session was devoted to discussing specific fields in which the Convention could provide technical support.

A press conference followed where journalists and NGOs were mainly interested in monitoring mechanisms of the Convention and the possible consequences of non-compliance with obligations.

Conclusion: The Committee welcomed the accession of Belarus to the Bern Convention and took note of the report of the visit of representatives of the Secretariat to the Republic of Belarus.

4.2 Courtesy introductory report by the Government of Belarus

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 37 - Introductory Report on Nature Conservation in Belarus

The delegate of the Republic of Belarus, Ms Natalya Minchenko, gave a presentation on the state of biodiversity in her country, as well as on the legislative and administrative framework of biodiversity conservation.

In her statement, Ms Minchenko emphasised on the steady upward trend in forested lands proportion, and informed on the state of grassland and wetland ecosystems before presenting the most valuable flora and fauna species. She continued by listing the main factors posing threats to biological diversity in Belarus among which the changes in land use, habitat's fragmentation due to urbanisation, changes in the natural hydrologic regime, peat fire, climate change and invasive alien species.

Ms Minchenko also presented the main legislative and administrative measures implemented by Belarus authorities for addressing the mentioned threats, as well as for complying with the other biodiversity related agreements to which the country is a contracting Party.

In line with the work carried out under the Emerald Network constitution process, Belarus is deploying important efforts for increasing the total area of natural protected areas. Ms Minchenko also cited some important natural areas which are part of Europe's natural heritage, such as for instance the Berezinski Biosphere Reserve. The latter is listed among the first biosphere reserves designated by Unesco in 1979, but also a full member of the EUROPARC, and a European Diploma holding site.

Finally, Ms Minchenko presented some of the fields in which the co-operation with the Convention could be particularly appreciated, and namely concerning the conservation and sustainable use of species like the European bison, the wolf, and the eel.

Several Parties and the IUCN took the floor for congratulating Belarus for its accession to the Convention and praised the national system of biodiversity conservation.

Conclusion: The Committee welcomed the accession of Belarus to the Convention and thanked the authorities for their introductory report, noting more particularly the focus on biodiversity conservation. The Committee further appreciated the ideas for possible co-operation launched by the national authorities.

PART IV –MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

*Documents for information only:

T-PVS/Inf (2013) 27 - A manifesto for large carnivore conservation in Europe

T-PVS/Inf(2013)18 - Observer organisations' reports on the implementation of the action points of Recommendation No. 155 (2011)

T-PVS/Inf (2013) 12 - Assessment of the compliance by Parties with the Budapest Declaration on Bird Protection and Power Lines

T-PVS/Inf (2013) 16 - Observer Organisation reports on the Implementation of the Action Points listed in the Budapest Declaration on bird protection and power lines

T-PVS/Inf (2013) 11 - Follow- up of Recommendation No. 149 (2010) on the eradication of the

* This item will not be discussed, unless Parties request so at the adoption of the Agenda.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palaearctic – National Reports

T-PVS/Inf (2013) 36 - Report on Progress on the Irish TB Programme for the eradication of *Mycobacterium bovis* infection from Cattle & Badgers - 2007-2012 – Report by the Government

T-PVS/Inf (2013) 5 – Summary table of reporting under the Bern Convention

The Chair reminded that Contracting Parties have the possibility to report to the plenary on specific conservation actions which have not been dealt with by the Groups of Experts.

The Committee took note of the information provided by the European Union on its activities related to Large Carnivores, namely the stakeholders' workshop on population level species scheduled to take place on 5th December 2013, and the preparation of four large carnivore's Species Action Plans (SPAs), which are building on earlier SAPs prepared under the Convention.

Moreover, the Committee took note of the presentation of the Delegate of Finland regarding the elaboration of a value index for imposing monetary compensation in crimes against protected species, in addition to the fines established by law.

5.1 Select Group on Invasive Alien Species

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2013) 5 + addendum - Report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species and National Reports
 T-PVS/Inf (2013) 20 corrigendum – European Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS
 T-PVS (2013) 11 – Draft Recommendation on the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS
 TPVS/Inf (2013) 22 – European Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS
 TPVS (2013) 12 – Draft Recommendation on the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS
 TPVS/Inf (2013) 28 – Communication on IAS issues to media
 T-PVS/Inf (2013) 34 - EPPO-Council of Europe-IUCN workshop “How to communicate on Pests and Invasive Alien Plants” - Conclusions

a. 10th Meeting of the Group of Experts on IAS

The Chair of the Group of Experts summarised the outcomes of the meeting of the Group, which took place in Alghero (Sardinia, Italy) in June. The Group noted that, in the twenty years it had existed, it has produced fifteen recommendations, a European Strategy for IAS, seven Codes of conduct or Guidelines and a very high number of technical reports, thanks to a work carried out in close co-operation with other international organisations and bodies.

This year, the Group received twenty-four national reports on the progress made by Parties in the implementation of the European Strategy for IAS, as well as reports from other bodies involved in IAS work. Particular attention was devoted to the new legal instrument on IAS under preparation by the European Union. The Group worked, more particularly, on the prioritisation of pathways, on the Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS, on the Code of Conduct on Recreational Fishing and IAS, on Global Codes of Conduct in Marine and Fresh Water Ecosystems and on the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS. The Group further made proposals for its future work on IAS issues under the Convention.

The Consultant, Mr Andrea Monaco, presented the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS, prepared on behalf of the Bern Convention. Mr Monaco explained that the Guidelines aim to present a set of key principles that should be adopted for protected areas, in order to prevent and manage the threat of IAS at all scales. They mainly address managers and staff of protected areas, practitioners, decision makers and local communities, as well as those (authorities, NGOs, politicians, donors) who can contribute to the enforcement of well-planned and effective management programmes. A web survey on IAS in Protected Areas had been launched to collect quantitative information and case studies on threats, top invasive species, impacts, management options and key impediments in dealing with IAS. Following the analysis of the replies received from twenty one countries, the draft guidelines were prepared and submitted for input, comments and amendments to the 9th and 10th meetings of the Convention's Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species, as well as to the informal meeting of the Select Group on Invasive Alien Species, and to the 3rd and 5th meetings

of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks. The final document presented to the Standing Committee is therefore a complete and agreed text.

Mr Monaco further presented the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS, which aims to provide a set of voluntary principles for hunters and hunting managers, in order to improve sustainability of hunting and to avoid arrivals or introductions of IAS as game species. The Code is complementary to the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species and the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity already developed under the Bern Convention. The final text includes seven key principles which take account of the legal and policy context of Parties, as well as of the fundamental role which the hunters could play in surveillance on new IAS arrivals or introduction, to support an early warning and rapid response system, or to raise awareness. Before being presented to the Standing Committee, the Code of conduct has been discussed by the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species at its 10th meeting, as well as by the Select Group on IAS which met in Rome in 2012. The document includes inputs from FACE and the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF).

The Chair opened the floor for the comments of the Parties on the presentations.

The Delegate of the European Union, Ms Milena Novakova, informed the Committee on the progress in the negotiation for the adoption of a EU dedicated legal instrument on IAS aimed to improve prevention on arrival and spread of IAS, including bans on possession, trade and release into the environment. The instrument will include a list of IAS of EU concern, and will address issues like for instance notification, early warning systems, risk assessment procedures, eradication, and containment.

The Delegate of Switzerland, Ms Sarah Pearson Perret, informed that her State is also preparing dedicated legislation and a more complete strategy on IAS. Several delegations noted the need to improve international co-ordination on IAS, so that the effects of IAS on native species, habitats and natural processes might be better controlled.

The Secretariat noted that the possible adoption of a EU legal instrument on IAS could open new opportunities for the Bern Convention, particularly for proposing a possible European co-ordination between EU and non-EU Parties. In fact, the Convention may play a role in extending beyond the borders of the European Union some useful practices already in place, and be active in the elaboration or design of shared IAS information systems.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the report of the 10th meeting of Group of Experts, including the proposals of the Group for the future work to be carried out on IAS under the Convention. The Committee praised the very good progress in the implementation of the Convention's European Strategy on IAS, as well as the continuation of innovative work through the preparation of new voluntary Codes of conduct and Guidelines.

The Committee examined, amended and adopted the following recommendations:

- Recommendation No. 166 (2013) on the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species;
- Recommendation No. 167 (2013) on the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species.

Finally, the Committee thanked Italian authorities for the excellent preparation of the meeting and all governments and international organisations for the very good input.

b. Communication on Invasive Alien Species

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 34 - EPPO-Council of Europe-IUCN workshop “How to communicate on Pests and Invasive Alien Plants”

The Secretariat presented the conclusions of a workshop held in Oeiras, Portugal, jointly organised by the Council of Europe, the Portuguese authorities, the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) and the IUCN. The workshop counted with the input of journalists that pointed out the need, for scientists working on pests and IAS, of more targeted training on communication and awareness techniques. Identifying key messages, simplifying them and working around concrete stories avoiding technical jargon appeared to be the main patterns where improvement is needed.

Moreover, the participants agreed that communication needs to be carefully planned and should be considered as an integral part of the implementation of IAS projects, as the success in controlling the arrival and spread of IAS will only be possible through an improved public awareness. The conclusions of the workshop are available in document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 34.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the conclusions of the EPPO-Council of Europe-IUCN workshop on “How to communicate on Pests and Invasive Alien Plants” (Oeiras, Portugal, October 2013), and welcomed the co-operation of the three organisations on matters of common interest. The Committee further thanked Portuguese authorities for the excellent preparation of the workshop.

c. Monitoring of the European Strategy on the eradication of the Ruddy duck (Side event)

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 39 – Conclusions on the eradication of the ruddy duck

The Secretariat reported on the side-event held besides the first day of the Standing Committee meeting.

According to the outcomes of the side-event, some Parties are still experiencing some difficulties in meeting the objectives set up in the Action plan for the eradication of the ruddy duck. The target of eradicating the species from the wild in the Western Palearctic by 2015 does not seem realistic at this stage.

The participants were particularly worried to learn that the Netherlands have ceased all actions to control ruddy ducks in the wild, creating a stable source of birds for the recolonisation of Europe.

Moreover, efforts to control birds in France and Belgium didn't bring the expected outcomes and France holds now the highest number of birds, followed by the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Belgium.

However, thanks to the efficient implementation of its eradication policy, the United Kingdom halved again its populations in 2012-2013 so the nearly complete eradication of the ruddy duck in the country seems likely to be achieved by 2015.

The presence of birds in other European states is only sporadic. However, no information was obtained from Morocco and Tunisia.

Participants recommended a series of priority actions, among which:

- Eradication of established feral population in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom;
- Improvement of the monitoring of feral population;
- Prioritisation of the species in the possible EU legal instrument on invasive alien species;
- Audit of captive population / advice to keepers.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the progress in the eradication of the Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palearctic. The Committee recommended that the Netherlands be more proactive in the eradication of this species and invited other states where the species is present (Belgium, France, Spain and the United Kingdom) to continue their efforts towards the complete eradication goal.

5.2 Conservation of Birds – Draft Action Plan and draft recommendations

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2013) 6 - Report of 2nd Conference on illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds and 4th meeting of the Group of Experts on Birds (Tunis, 29-31 May 2013)
 T-PVS/Inf (2013) 13 - Assessment of the compliance by Parties with Recommendation No. 155 (2011) on the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds
 T-PVS (2013) 4 - Draft recommendation on the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds
 T-PVS/Inf (2013) 14 - Overview of the Species Action Plans endorsed by the Bern Convention and need for update
 T-PVS (2013) 9 - Draft recommendation on the implementation of twenty-one new or revised action plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area
 T-PVS/Inf (2013) 15 - Windfarms and Birds: An updated analysis of the effects of windfarms on birds, and best practice guidance on integrated planning and impact assessment
 TPVS/Inf (2013) 9 - Improving the International coordination on Species Recovery Plans - Background document
 T-PVS/Inf (2013) 25 – Statement of the CMS to the Conference on Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of Wild Birds (Tunis, May 2013)
 T-PVS/Inf (2013) 32 – Programme to combat the illegal killing, trapping and trade in wild birds

a. 2nd Conference on Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of wild birds

The Secretariat presented the outcomes of the 2nd Conference on the Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in wild birds, organised in Tunis on 29-30 May 2013. The Conference benefitted from the assistance of the Ministries of Environment and of Agriculture of Tunisia, and from the technical contribution of BirdLife International and the FACE.

The event was foreseen in the framework of the Week on the Conservation of Birds, and took place back-back to the first meeting of the CMS working group on minimising poisoning of birds, and before the meeting of the Convention's Group of Experts on birds. This allowed for greater attendance (representatives of Cameroon and Jordan also joined the meetings) at lower costs. The Secretariat stressed that the Conference was the first international event organised in support of the "Friends of Target 12" partnership.

The Secretariat explained that the CMS working group on minimising poisoning of birds addressed to the Committee a statement regarding some guidelines which are in preparation on this specific topic under the CMS. The Committee is invited, *inter alia*, to take them into account once these have been adopted by the CMS Conference of the Parties next year.

The Secretariat reported that the 2nd Conference was conceived as a monitoring conference, which achieved to set a vision for the mid-term. Nineteen Contracting Parties, including the European Union, replied to the questionnaire prepared for evaluating compliance with the standards set under the Convention, including more particularly the Recommendation No. 155 (2011). A detailed assessment report was produced by BirdLife International for the Convention, putting forward areas where progress is clear and evident and, at the same time, issues where the progress is still low. This is particularly the case for instance for the awareness and education aspects which may seem less a priority while in fact they deal with prevention and should be seen as key elements of the eradication process.

Three working groups met during the Conference for identifying gaps in legal, biological and institutional, and awareness aspects, with the aim of preparing a dedicated Action Plan to address these. The Action Plan was then revised by the Secretariat, circulated to the moderators and rapporteurs of the working groups, and sent to all participants and Parties for a peer-review.

The final “Tunis Action Plan for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, 2013-2020” has been presented to the Committee together with a draft recommendation.

The Secretariat recognised that the Action Plan is ambitious, but stressed that it is not unrealistic. In fact, the participants to the Conference tried to identify all possible actions that Parties should put in place for eradicating illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, as well as a timeframe, and a responsible body for each of the suggested actions.

In some occasions, the Action Plan suggests coordination and co-operation between different bodies at national level (for instance between enforcement agencies and Ministries of Culture and Education, or the judiciary). But the Secretariat explained that the Action Plan should be used by each Party according to its specific needs and taking into account the level of preparation and the work already carried out, as well as the administrative nature of the national enforcement mechanisms already in place.

The Secretariat stressed that the Action Plan is conceived as a logical framework so to highlight its flexibility and vocation to be used as a “tool” for helping Parties in reaching their objectives.

Regarding the concrete implementation of the plan, the Secretariat explained that it is already exploring possible partners and informed, for instance, that some of the actions foreseen in the plan will be also addressed by an IMPEL project next year. Moreover, at the level of the EU, the Roadmap on illegal killing of birds will also guide efforts of the Parties toward the achievement of the Tunis Action Plan. Furthermore, the Secretariat is ready to seek for the assistance of the Council of Europe Education Department or of bodies like the Council of Europe Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) if so requested by the Parties.

Finally, the Secretariat suggested that a specific mailing list of focal points for illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds is set up as from next year, so to ensure that in each country there is a person in charge of ensuring the information flow from and to the relevant bodies, and to report back on these issues.

The Chair gave the floor to the representatives of INTERPOL, Dr Thérèse Shryane and Mr Andreas Andreou, who presented the frame for a possible co-operation with the Council of Europe on illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds, including the already available tools and services under INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme. In fact INTERPOL, the only global law enforcement organisation, encourages international co-operation on policing and law enforcement through offering a secure and rapid global police communications network, support in the identification of crime and criminals, capacity building and operational support.

Mr Andreou further gave an overview of the functioning of INTERPOL databases as well as of the communication network, including the alert and warning systems. He then presented some of the tools available for capacity building, including the best practice manuals and the guides for training of officers. Concerning wildlife crime issues, INTERPOL has launched in 2012 the so-called NEST, i.e. National Environmental Security Task force initiative, which aims to establish a common platform and approach worldwide for national compliance and enforcement responses, so as to enhance both national and international efforts on ensuring current and future environmental security. Mr Andreou also presented the “Operation CAGE”, an internationally coordinated programme against the illegal trade and exploitation of birds and their produces, which was launched in 2012 in response to the growing illegal transborder trade of captive-bred and wild birds and eggs, and the increasing involvement of organised crime networks in their transit from Latin America to Europe.

Finally, Dr Shryane, reiterated INTERPOL interest in working in co-operation with the Council of Europe for assisting Parties in the implementation of their activities on combating illegal killing of birds and explained that a general project outline is ready and that a more elaborated proposal, including detailed budgetary needs could be prepared if the Committee would adopt the Tunis Action Plan.

The Delegate of Lithuania, Ms Kristina Klovaite, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, expressed support for the draft recommendation which invites Parties and Observer States to the Convention to implement the Tunis Action Plan as illegal taking and trade in wild birds negatively affect conservation actions undertaken by the Parties and is a significant obstacle to achieve favourable status in some wild bird populations. She also pointed out that the Tunis Action plan is very broad in its scope

and thus the effective and responsible bodies should be clearly identified. To this end, the EU and its Member States expressed support also for all the initiatives which would improve co-operation between the institutions responsible for environment protection, Ministries of Justice, police authorities and public prosecution services. This co-operation would benefit and enhance the results of bird conservation measures and contribute to the improved status of bird populations in general.

The representative of BirdLife expressed satisfaction for the final draft Tunis Action Plan and informed that BirdLife International is already looking for donors for identifying hotspots of illegal killing of birds, and it is planning specific workshops which will be the starting point for the intense work on this issue that the NGO is ready to carry out next year as a contribution to the Action Plan.

The representative of the AEWA informed about a UNEP coordination meeting which took place a week before the Standing Committee, to discuss illegal killing of birds in Egypt and Libya. In fact, the issue received a lot of media attention in June 2013, following a video-report prepared by Jonatan Franzen and an article published in the National Geographic, and it further raised the concern of many other stakeholders, including the Chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of CMS, the AEWA and the "Raptors MoU". The government of Germany provided support for the UNEP coordination meeting during which participants agreed on a framework for a plan of action which will be implemented by a task force. The AEWA will keep the Convention informed about any useful development.

The representative of Terra Cypria welcomed the Tunis Action Plan and provided information on recent activities carried out by the NGO on issues related to the Plan. These included educational and public awareness initiatives, including some work with the media, and a meeting for judges confronted with bird crimes issues.

The Delegate of Norway, Mr Øystein Størkersen, expressed appreciation for the work carried out on this topic under the Convention and considered that the possible co-operation with the INTERPOL and other MEAs will certainly benefit future work.

Decisions: The Committee welcomed the report of the 2nd Conference on Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of wild birds, and acknowledged the satisfactory participation of Parties in the monitoring exercise, the high quality background documents produced, and the excellent work carried out by the moderators and rapporteurs of the working groups.

More particularly, the Committee welcomed the synergies created with other international organisations and biodiversity related Conventions, which resulted in more visibility, higher participation, and cost-efficiency.

Moreover, the Committee took note of the statement addressed by the UNEP/CMS Working Group on minimising poisoning and welcomed the CMS on-going work on the preparation of actions and guidelines to minimise the risk of poisoning of migratory birds. The Committee instructed the Bureau to closely follow-up these developments under the CMS.

Besides, the Committee examined the Tunis Action Plan 2020 on the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds and considered it a useful and comprehensive tool for Parties engaged in the prevention and eradication of birds' related crimes.

In this respect, the Committee welcomed the interest showed by the INTERPOL in the Convention's activities aimed at preventing illegal killing of birds and took note of the project proposal elaborated by the INTERPOL Secretariat in order to tackle this issue.

The Committee encouraged future co-operation of both institutions in this field and, to this end, it instructed the Secretariat to look into possible donors for the implementation of a joint Council of Europe/Interpol project in support of the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan.

The Committee examined, amended and adopted the following recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 164 (2013) on the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds.

b. 4th Meeting of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds

The Secretariat provided a very short summary of the background and outcomes of the 4th Meeting of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds co-organised by the Convention and BirdLife International.

The Secretariat emphasised on the high quality of the numerous working documents produced mainly by BirdLife International and its partners for the meeting and noted that these have been presented to the Committee either for discussion or for information.

Furthermore, the Secretariat presented the main decisions of the Group of Experts, which concerned the following issues:

1. Powerlines and conservation of birds: the Group reached agreement to recommend to the Standing Committee that the Bern Convention takes part in the joint energy sector initiative and online reporting system proposed by the UNEP/AEWA and the CMS;
2. Species Recovery Plans (SRP): the Group recommended to the Standing Committee that the Bern Convention joins the informal Group for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MAEs) Secretariats and other Stakeholders to oversee the development and implementation of SRP;
3. Follow-up of complaints related to bird conservation issues: the Group took note of the state of progress in dealing with two complaints related to bird conservation issues, respectively in Malta and Bulgaria, and forwarded its comments to the Bureau.

Moreover, the Group analysed a background document prepared by BirdLife, listing twenty-one action plans for most threatened birds, elaborated mainly by the CMS and the AEWA/UNEP but also by the European Union, and BirdLife International, and which the Committee had not yet endorsed. The Group prepared a draft recommendation at the Standing Committee's attention in order to invite Parties to take these Action Plans into account while drawing up, reviewing or implementing, as appropriate, their national species recovery plans or other relevant measures.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the report of the 4th Meeting of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds, as well as of the proposals made by the Group for its future work. The Committee acknowledged the important contribution of BirdLife International in the preparation of the background documents, as well as the fruitful co-operation with the AEWA.

The Committee recognised the value of international co-ordination and co-operation on species conservation, and decided to support the participation of the Bern Convention in the informal coordination task force on Action Plans for bird species conservation. It expressed further support for the possible participation of the Convention in other MEAs activities aimed at coordinating work on energy issues.

In addition, the Committee examined and adopted the following recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 165 (2013) on the implementation of twenty-one new or revised action plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area.

Finally, the Committee thanked the Tunisian authorities for the excellent hosting of the Week on the Conservation of Birds, which served as framework for both the meeting of the Group of Experts on birds and the 2nd Conference on the Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of wild birds.

c. Wind-farms and birds – updated guidelines

The Secretariat briefly introduced the report “Wind farms and Birds: An updated analysis of the effects of wind farms on birds, and best practice guidance on integrated planning and impact assessment” prepared by RSPB for the Bern Convention with the aim of taking into account the significant developments intervened in the field since the publication of the first Convention's report on this topic (2003).

Mr Willem van den Bossche, representative of BirdLife International, gave an overview of the content of the report, stressing that the document also tackles issues like Strategic planning and sites selection, impact assessments, and integrated planning, and provides a set of best practice guidance for the Parties engaged in dealing with issues related to the development of wind energy and the conservation of birds. He then presented in details each of the nine recommendations included in the report, and concluded by offering BirdLife International assistance in disseminating, also in other *fora*, the best practice guidance elaborated on behalf of the Convention

The Chair thanked BirdLife International and the RSPB for their support and work carried out under the Convention.

Decisions: The Committee welcomed document T-PVS/Inf(2013) 15, on “Wind farms and birds”, and thanked RSPB for developing this useful updated best practice guidance on integrated planning and impact assessment. The Committee invited all Parties to take into account the recommendations and guidance included in the report in view of the further implementation of Recommendation No. 109 (2004) of the Standing Committee on minimising adverse effects of wind power generation on wildlife.

d. Presentation of the conclusions of the Workshop on recovery and reintroduction of the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Mr René Rosoux presented the conclusions of an International workshop organised in France to address the problematic of the recovery of the osprey.

Mr Rosoux first presented the main characteristics of this species, which he considered to be a symbol of Europe’s natural heritage and as a flagship species of nature conservation. He then presented the development of the populations in different countries and explained that, while the species practically disappeared from Western Europe in the 20th century, the osprey came back to those countries where the habitat had a favourable status and a small population survived, without the need of reintroduction plans.

However, reintroduction campaigns could still be relevant in those countries which had hosted the species in the past but from where the osprey disappeared. For instance, Mr Rosoux explained that some countries in South Eastern Europe could be good candidates for the reintroduction of the osprey since the species could resettle in places where it has been present.

The participants to the workshop further discussed the role that the Bern Convention could have in supporting the recovery of the osprey on the continent. More concretely, the Convention could be critical in supporting and stimulating the preparation of a European Action Plan for the recovery of the species, and a strategy for its reintroduction when feasible. Awareness campaigns could also be organised, particularly for wintering grounds and the Mediterranean region.

The Delegate of Switzerland, Ms Sarah Pearson Perret, expressed satisfaction for the organisation of such a workshop and informed that the opinion of the scientific community at national level is quite divided on the issue of reintroduction. In fact, some scientists believe that the natural enlargement of the species distribution range could be preferable particularly when the population is very small in numbers.

Mr Rosoux explained that the aim of the Action Plan should be the recovery of the species. The opportunity of reintroduction should be considered depending on the situation of the species in each country and, in any case, not implemented without a prior careful study which ensures that the reintroduction has really chances of being successful. He also recalled that if the habitat is well conserved, the species will return spontaneously; however, the return can take time and, in some countries, reintroduction plans could step-up the conservation efforts.

The Delegate of Hungary, Mr Zoltan Czirak, recalled that the species disappeared from the country in the 19th century and was spotted recently again but left the country without breeding.

Decision: The Committee took note of the conclusions of the Workshop on recovery and reintroduction of the osprey and decided that – as the species has disappeared from over fifteen European countries – it would be useful to work on improving its conservation status. Therefore the Committee decided that a European Action Plan on the recovery and reintroduction of the osprey should be prepared under the aegis of the Bern Convention, and submitted to the Committee for analysis once ready.

5.3 Invertebrates

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2013) 17 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Invertebrates
T-PVS (2013) 13 – Draft recommendation on the threats by neurotoxic insecticides to pollinators
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 4 – National Reports

The Secretariat summarised the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts. Thirteen national reports were submitted to the Group on the implementation by Parties of the European Strategy on Invertebrates, showing – among other things - the interest of governments in invertebrates' conservation efforts.

The Secretariat stressed that, during the past ten years, invertebrates' conservation has gained relevance and international attention. However, the conservatory measures which resulted in concrete protection for these species have mainly targeted their habitats, rather than the invertebrates themselves, through targeted species action plans. Progress was nevertheless reported and concerns increasing knowledge and information on threatened and data deficient species. National inventories are progressing and most states have reasonable databases on species.

The Group noted insufficient knowledge and poor use of the Convention's European Strategy for the Conservation of Invertebrates. Awareness on the key ecosystem services provided by invertebrates is still low. The Group also discussed the effects that new insecticides seem to have on domestic and wild pollinators, suggesting the extension to all countries of the precautionary measures taken by the European Union concerning the ban of some neonicotinoid.

The Group proposed a number of actions for its future work on this topic.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Invertebrates and highlighted that this Group of Experts is the only of this kind in Europe. The Committee encouraged the continuation of its work, and agreed with the proposals for the Group's future activities.

Furthermore, the Committee recognised the need to improve efforts for the conservation of invertebrates and encouraged Parties to step-up work towards the full implementation of the "European Strategy for the Conservation of Invertebrates" at national level, including through awareness-raising and communication initiatives.

Moreover, the Committee took note of the concern expressed by the Group on the presumed negative effect of neurotoxic pesticides on wild pollinators. The Committee stressed that wild pollinators provide crucial ecosystem services for human well-being and agreed that any possible threat to these species should be kept under monitoring. The Committee further welcomed the two regulations adopted this year at the EU level for restricting to some extent the use of some neurotoxic pesticides, and praised the efforts of other Parties in the same sense. Considering that these issues are subject to ongoing scientific debate under other mechanisms, for instance the IPBES, the Committee mandated the Chair for their follow-up and decided to re-examine the issue at a later stage.

Finally, the Committee thanked Albanian authorities for the efficient preparation of the meeting and the excellent hospitality.

5.4 Conservation of fungi

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 26 – Draft European Charter on Fungi-Gathering and Biodiversity
T-PVS (2013) 3 – Draft Recommendation on the European Charter on Fungi-Gathering and Biodiversity

The Secretariat recalled that the first draft European Charter on Fungi-Gathering and Biodiversity was presented to the Committee last year, together with a draft recommendation. The preliminary draft was prepared by IUCN consultants on the basis of terms of reference prepared by a “Working Group for drafting a European Charter on Gathering Fungi and Biodiversity” which met in February 2012 at Abu Dhabi, during the meeting of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Group Chairs Meeting. The document was then sent to the members of the IUCN Group by e-mail for comments and amendments. A revised draft was then submitted for peer-review to scientists and representatives of fungi conservation organisations and other interested stakeholders. A final first draft was sent by e-mail to all T-PVS Delegates for comments.

However, last year a number of specific issues were raised, more particularly by France, Germany and Switzerland. Considering justified the concerns expressed, the Committee decided to postpone the endorsement of the Charter to a further meeting.

The Secretariat further explained that, in February 2013, the Chair of the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group, Ms Rosie Cooney, kindly accepted to undertake the revision of the Charter. Consultations were first carried out bilaterally with the Parties who expressed concern at the previous Committee meeting, after which the Secretariat launched a new peer review and electronic consultations. This procedure helped building-up a coherent and complete final text which was sent to all Delegates for final comments before the Standing Committee meeting.

The Secretariat concluded by reminding that the draft Charter addresses a very wide public, contributes to raising awareness on the sustainable use of biodiversity, and tackles the protection of species which are not directly covered by the Convention, and which do not receive protection at the EU level.

The representative of the IUCN, Mr Robert Kenward, presented the draft Charter, highlighting that this was prepared through a participatory and transparent process, taking into account the Convention on Biological Diversity’s principles of sustainable use and ecosystem approach. The Goal of the Charter is to propose concrete and easy principles and guidelines intended to ensure that the gathering of fungi and lichens in Europe is practiced in a sustainable manner, with a positive contribution to the biodiversity conservation and the needs of society, including life quality. Mr Kenward further presented the eleven overarching principles included in the Charter, as well as the guidelines for decision-makers and the simplified Code of Conduct for fungi gatherer appended to the Charter.

Decisions: The Committee welcomed the work carried out in 2013 in order to finalise the European Charter on Fungi-Gathering and Biodiversity, and particularly thanked Ms Rosie Cooney, Chair of the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group, for her personal dedication to supervising the revision of the Charter. Moreover, the Committee praised the excellent co-operation between the IUCN and the Bern Convention on this matter and stressed that this Charter will be the first European instrument to specifically target the conservation of Fungi.

The Committee decided to endorse the European Charter on Fungi-Gathering and biodiversity and it further examined, amended and adopted the following recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 168 (2013) on the European Charter on Fungi-Gathering and Biodiversity.

5.5 Habitats

a. Protected Areas and Ecological Networks - Progress report on the establishment of the Emerald Network, draft revised Standard Data Form of Annex 1 to Resolution No. 5 (1998) and draft revised Criteria for the evaluation of proposed ASCIs

Relevant Documents: T-PVS/PA (2013) 14 – Report of the 5th meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks
T-PVS/PA (2013) 17 – Draft list of proposed Emerald sites to be nominated as Candidate Emerald Sites
T-PVS/PA (2013) 08 - Draft revised Emerald Network Standard Data Form [Annex 1 Res. No. 5 (1998)]
T-PVS/PA (2013) 13 - Draft revised Criteria for the evaluation of the sufficiency of proposed ASCIs
T-PVS/PA(2013) 04 - Draft form for requesting exceptions to national reference lists (Emerald Network) for species listed in Annex I of Resolution No. 6 (1998)

The Chair of the Group, Mr Jacques Stein, presented the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks (18-19 September 2013, Strasbourg) and the progress achieved in the implementation of the Emerald Calendar 2020.

Mr Stein underlined the advancement in the setting-up of the Emerald Network, in particular the biogeographical evaluation of 633 proposed Emerald sites in Norway, which took place in June 2013. All 633 sites were confirmed as valid after the evaluation of their sufficiency, although additional sites - in particular in northern Norway - have to be identified and proposed for integrating the Network so as to ensure its completeness. The 633 proposed Emerald sites were submitted to the Standing Committee for official nomination as candidate Emerald sites.

Mr Stein further emphasised the successful launch of the new Joint EU/CoE Programme aiming at the completion of the network in seven countries in Eastern Europe and the South-Caucasus, in the frame of which seven national technical seminars took place throughout 2013. The seven countries are currently finalising their revised Emerald databases, containing additional suitable sites, in view of initiating the biogeographical evaluation of the sites in 2014-2015.

Moreover, Mr Stein informed that work on the setting-up of the Emerald Network will start in Morocco in 2014. A project proposal is currently being prepared, aimed at the identification of at least 50 % of the potential Emerald sites in the country.

Mr Stein reported on several technical and methodological issues on which the Group of Experts has worked throughout the year, in particular the revision of the Emerald Standard Data Form and the adaptation of the new Natura 2000 software for the needs and use of the Emerald Network. The revised Standard Data Form for the Emerald Network was submitted to adoption by the Standing Committee.

Besides, the harmonisation of the list of threatened habitats under the EU “Habitats” Directive and Resolution No.4 (1996) of the Bern Convention is still ongoing and was discussed at the meeting. Its finalisation is foreseen for 2014.

According to the document “Criteria for assessing the National Lists of proposed Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs) at biogeographical level” (T-PVS/PA (2010) 12) adopted by the Committee in 2010, additional guidelines should be developed for the evaluation of the sufficiency of sites’ proposals for bird species. The additional criteria were presented to the Group of Experts and consist of an evaluation which should be conducted combining (1) a species by species approach, i.e. looking whether each species of Resolution No. 6 (1998) of the Bern Convention is sufficiently represented in the network, and (2) a site approach, i.e. looking whether all IBAs meeting certain quantitative ornithological criteria for non-Resolution 6 migratory birds covered by the Emerald network. The Group of Experts agreed with this approach and forwarded the document on the revised Criteria, including the additional explanations on bird species, for official adoption by the Standing Committee.

Moreover, in line with the Action Plan for the setting-up of the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN), endorsed by the Standing Committee in 2012, a contract was awarded to the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC) for preparing a toolkit aiming at explaining the social and economic benefits of the establishment of functioning ecological networks to decision-makers and to the general

public. The toolkit will be ready in the beginning of 2014 and will be presented at the next meeting of the Group of Experts next year.

In addition, the Committee debated the question of the procedure to be followed in case a Contracting Party wishes to use the possibility given by the sign #, marking some species of European importance listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998), for not designating Emerald sites for some of these species. The Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks had to deal with this issue, raised for the first time at the Emerald biogeographical seminar for Norway.

Some forty-five species in Annex I to the Resolution No. 6 (1998) are marked with the sign “#”, with the explanation that “some species may be abundant in parts of Europe and may not require specific habitat conservation measures everywhere”. The Group of Experts was asked to discuss on the procedure that should be followed in case a country would like to use this # sign and not to designate Emerald sites for a particular species of this list.

The Delegate of Iceland, Mr Jón Gunnar Ottósson, clarified the background and reasons behind the decision to mark a certain number of species with this sign.

The Delegate of Norway, Mr Øystein Størkersen, informed that the country still has no defined position on the matter, while the Delegate of Slovenia, Mr Peter Skoberne, called for a cautious approach to the matter in order to ensure the smooth implementation of the Network is not jeopardized.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts in 2013. It welcomed the progress achieved in the setting-up of the Emerald Network and expressed its strong appreciation for the efforts of Contracting Parties, Observer states and other partners in that process. The Committee further thanked the European Environment Agency and its European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity for their crucial technical and scientific support to the successful implementation of the Emerald Network throughout 2013.

The Committee nominated as “candidate Emerald sites” a set of 633 proposed Emerald sites situated in Norway.

The Committee examined and adopted the following documents:

- Revised Emerald Standard Data Form [Revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 5 (1998)];
- Revised Criteria for the evaluation of the sufficiency of proposed ASCIs, including additional criteria for the evaluation of bird and migratory bird species.

Besides, the Committee debated the question of the procedure to be followed in case a Contracting Party wishes to use the possibility given by the sign #, marking some species of European importance listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998), for not designating Emerald sites for some of these species.

The Committee clarified the background and reasons behind the decision to mark a certain number of species with this sign and agreed that the procedure to be followed in case a Party decides to use the # sign would need further assessment.

The Committee charged the Secretariat and the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks to work on the interpretation of the # sign and on the form to be used by Contracting Parties for requesting exceptions linked to that sign. The Committee will consider the question again at its next meeting in 2014.

b. European Diploma of Protected Areas – Adopted resolutions on the award and renewal of the European Diploma of protected areas

Relevant documents: T-PVS/DE(2013) 10 – Report of the meeting of the Group of Specialists of the European Diploma of Protected Areas
T-PVS/DE (2013) 8 – Adopted resolutions on the award and the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas in 2013

The Secretariat read a report on the work of the Group of Specialists, on behalf of the Chair of the Group Mr Michael Usher. The Group met on 26 March 2013 in Strasbourg. Two new applications were considered in 2013, one for the Desertas Islands Nature Reserve (Madeira, Portugal) and the other for Karadag Nature Reserve (Ukraine). Both applications were welcomed and the Group considered that a *prima facie* case had been made for the possible award of the EDPA. In both cases the Group asked the Secretariat to arrange for an expert to visit the site, to confirm its outstanding nature, to pay special attention to a few identified topics, and report in time for the Group's meeting in 2014.

The Group also considered on-the-spot reports from experts who had visited Khosrov Forest Reserve (Armenia) and the Burren Region (Ireland). Both expert reports recommended the award of the EDPA to these areas. The draft resolutions forwarded to the Bureau by the Group included two proposed conditions for the award and a set of six proposed recommendations. The Secretariat informed that in autumn 2013, further to the official adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Resolutions awarding the Diploma to both areas, the concerned national authorities organised official Ceremonies for the handling of the European Diploma.

Regarding the existing diploma holding areas, concern has been expressed for a number of years about the management of the Poloniny National Park (Slovak Republic). The Group noted that there were positive signs by the Slovak authorities since the exceptional on-the-spot appraisal to the area in 2012. Nevertheless, the Group drafted an opinion advising the Standing Committee to request the Slovak authorities to take appropriate measures within one year. Progress will be reviewed in 2014 by the Group of Specialists. The Group also recommended the renewal of the EDPA for the Retezat National Park (Romania) for a period of 10 years.

In its report, the Chair of the Group reminded that 2015 represents the Golden Jubilee (50th anniversary) of the European Diploma. The possible formats of this celebration, including a meeting of the management authorities of the Diploma holding areas, were discussed. However, the Group suggested to the Standing Committee that a parallel programme of national events should be encouraged, together with an international event for environmental decision makers. It is further recommended to prepare a publication extolling the virtues of the EDPA system, making it available to all Members States of the Council of Europe as well as to MEPs, national MPs, etc.

Finally, the Secretariat reminded that three members of the Group have completed their four years of membership and are standing down. These are Mr Henri Jaffaux (France), Mr Nikolay Sobolev (Russian Federation) and Mr Michael Usher (United Kingdom).

Decisions: The Committee took note of the report of the Group of Specialists and the progress achieved in 2013. The Committee further appreciated the considerable contribution and support brought to the European Diploma system and to its development during the last four years by the three outgoing members of the Group of Specialists, including the Chair of the Group.

The Committee welcomed the proposals formulated by the Group of Specialists on the forthcoming celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the European Diploma, and instructed the Secretariat to pursue the preparation of this event in this direction. Finally the Committee joined the plea of the Chair of the Group of Specialists to the Member States to the Council of Europe which still do not hold a European Diploma to consider applying for the Award and thus help the European Diploma network reflect the whole breadth of Europe's natural heritage.

PART V – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2013) 16 – Summary of case files and complaints
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 3 – Register of Bern Convention's case files

6.1 Files opened

➤ Ukraine: Building of a navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary (Danube delta)

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 33 – Government report - Ukraine
T-PVS/Files (2013) 35 – Government report - Romania
T-PVS/Files (2013) 37 – Government report - Republic of Moldova
T-PVS/Files (2013) 12 – Reports of the stakeholders
T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – EU report

This case concerns the excavation of a shipping canal in Bystroe estuary of the Danube delta in Ukraine, which is likely to affect adversely both the Ukrainian Danube Biosphere Reserve – the most important of Ukraine's wetlands – and the whole Danube delta dynamics.

The case is on the Standing Committee's agenda since 2004, when the Committee adopted Recommendation No. 111 (2004) on the proposed navigable waterway through the Bystroe estuary (Danube Delta), inviting Ukraine to suspend works except for the completion of Phase 1, and not to proceed with Phase 2 of the project until certain conditions were met.

In 2014 the Bureau assessed this complaint and decided to keep it open. At its second meeting, the Bureau reiterated its request to the concerned Parties – Ukraine, Romania and the Republic of Moldova – to convene as soon as possible a meeting of the Joint Commission and inform the Standing Committee at least on the date of the meeting as well as on the state of trans-boundary co-operation.

Furthermore, the Bureau welcomed the exchange of information between the Secretariats of the ESPOO and Bern Conventions, as a good example of international co-ordination on issues which are relevant to Europe's biodiversity. It finally instructed the Secretariat of the Bern Convention to approach the ESPOO Convention for any updated information, including any relevant outcome of the 28th Session of the Implementation Committee.

Following a short introduction by the Secretariat, the Delegate of Ukraine, Mr Ihor Ivanenko, presented the updated report focussing on both the state of implementation of Recommendation No. 111 (2004), and the more recent developments related to the meeting of the Joint Commission.

The Delegate of Ukraine confirmed that the authorities suspended activities after the Phase 1 of the project and did not start the new phase. He further summarised the main findings of the monitoring process launched in 2004, and recalled that different economical, social and nature conservation activities in Ukrainian Lower Danube delta region were implemented in the frame of the "State program of integrated development of Ukrainian Danube in 2004-2011". The Delegate stressed that Ukraine takes appropriate measures to enhance the conservation status of the Danube Biosphere Reserve and to expand its territory.

Besides, Mr Ivanenko informed on the outcomes of the second meeting of the Joint Trilateral Commission, hosted by Romania on 28th November 2013. He considered the meeting as a very good opportunity for discussing national and international monitoring results, development of projects and joint activities to be implemented in the short term. In fact, the concerned Parties planned future co-operation based on an agreed list of priority activities. The Commission highlighted the importance of the common bilateral and trilateral large scale joint projects, including projects within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and future Cross border Co-operation Programmes funded by the European Union. The Parties agreed the third meeting of the Commission to be organised and held in Ukraine in May 2014.

He concluded by wishing that the case file could soon be closed, particularly bearing in mind the efforts shown by Ukraine in honouring the provisions of Recommendation No. 111 (2004).

The Delegate of Romania, Mr Liviu Dumitru, agreed that the second meeting of the Joint Commission was positive in the sense that some progress was made by the three Parties to jointly find a way forward in respect of the issue of the canal. He stressed that on that occasion Romania asked Ukraine to provide information on the works carried out so far and on the authorities' intention to proceed with the full scale implementation of the project. Mr Dumitru regretted to inform that although the Ukrainian side affirmed that in 2012 and 2013 only small scale dredging was undertaken, there was no clear answer on a decision of the competent authorities to implement or renounce to implement the Phase 2 of the project.

Furthermore, the Delegate of Romania affirmed that the results of the studies and monitoring activity carried out by his authorities on the work implemented until now in the Ukrainian side of the Canal show that the Bystroe Project had already a significant impact on the Romanian territory, particularly for what concerns the hydrological conditions of the area. Therefore Mr Dumitru reiterated Romania's strong opposition to the implementation of Phase II of the project, and underlined the need for the impact of the works on the Romanian territory to be properly and comprehensively assessed by the Ukrainian side.

Concerning more concretely the outcomes of the meeting of the Joint Commission, the Delegate of Romania informed that Romanian and Ukrainian delegations agreed to exchange the environmental studies and data on the project and to hold an expert meeting to jointly analyse the conclusions of the studies. Furthermore, the three countries will conduct joint environmental monitoring in the Danube Delta.

Finally, given on the one hand the renewed dialogue between the Parties, whose continuation should be encouraged, and on the other hand the uncertainty in respect of the implementation of Phase II, the Delegate of Romania requested to keep the file open.

The representative of Alsace Nature, Ms Edith Wenger, wished to put a few facts at the Committee's attention, and reported the opinion of WWF experts in Germany, according to whom the EIA carried out by Ukraine only focus on the impact of the works on the Ukrainian territory. Moreover, WWF fears that, as a consequence of the continuation of the works, Romania is going to face serious erosion of the banks of the Danube and this will damage irreversibly the Romanian side of the Channel.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the reports of Ukraine and Romania, of comments and concern from Observers, and of the information submitted in writing by the Secretariats of the Ramsar and ESPOO Conventions.

The Committee welcomed the dialogue and co-operation re-established by the three concerned Parties at the recent meeting of the Joint Trilateral Commission and appreciated the collaboration between the Secretariats of the Bern Convention and the ESPOO Convention on this matter. Considering that it could be useful to examine the report of the meeting of the Joint Commission, and noting that the matter will also be assessed by the Committee of the ESPOO Convention at its 29th meeting (taking place a week after the Standing Committee meeting) the Committee decided to keep the case file open and to re-assess it at its next meeting.

To this end, it instructed the Bureau to follow-up this complaint and to continue the fruitful exchange of information with the ESPOO Convention, particularly on the possible recommendations that the ESPOO Committee could address to Ukraine.

➤ **Cyprus: Akamas Peninsula**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 32 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 48 - NGO report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – EU report

This case concerns plans for the tourist development in the Peninsula of Akamas (Cyprus), with detrimental effect on an ecologically valuable area with many rare plant and animal species protected under the Bern Convention. It was first discussed at the 16th meeting of the Standing Committee in 1996. Two on-the-spot appraisals were carried out in 1997 and 2002 and a recommendation adopted in 1997.

In the absence of the Delegate of Cyprus, the Secretariat summarised the complaint and informed that, in 2013, the Bureau assessed the case only once, at its second meeting. The Bureau took note of the information provided by the authorities and welcomed their commitment to promptly communicate the outcomes of the mapping of the Akamas Peninsula. Moreover, it further noted that the management plan for the Akamas Peninsula area is about to be finalised, but considered it necessary to follow this in connection with the developments related to the complaint pending at the EU level, more particularly regarding the presumed insufficient designation of the SCI.

In its decision, the Bureau invited the Party to inform the Standing Committee at its next meeting and instructed the Secretariat to liaise with the European Commission concerning the procedure pending under EU instances. The Secretariat further offered the possibility to the Party to send an updated written report. However, no new information was received from Cyprus authorities before the Standing Committee meeting.

The representative of Terra Cypria, Ms Artemis Yiordamli presented the NGO point of view on the current situation, insisting on the investigation by the European Commission concerning the presumed insufficient designation of the Natura 2000 areas as a strong evidence of the possible inadequate protection of both Akamas Peninsula and Limni. Ms Yiordamli stated that the boundaries designated for the Natura 2000 Network do not adequately protect the key species and/or habitats and that the Standing Committee's Recommendation no. 63 (1997) has not been fully implemented by the authorities of Cyprus. As a consequence, a unique European habitat is being damaged and therefore the case file should remain open so that monitoring of the situation can continue. She concluded her presentation by asking the Committee to make a number of recommendations to the attention of Cyprus authorities, including to promptly revising and extending the current boundaries for the areas, regulating development in the adjacent area, adopting a management plan of Akamas with all necessary measures for monitoring and control of habitats, reacting with adequate measures against illegal constructions and unsuitable activities on the surrounding beaches, and adopting an early warning system in order to closely monitor these areas, and the rest of the Natura 2000 sites, and prevent human destruction from taking place.

The Delegate of Norway, Mr Øystein Størkersen supported the views of the NGOs and stressed that the Akamas Peninsula and the Limni area are some of the few remaining sites of this kind in Europe and that the Committee be instrumental for protecting these for future generations. He recalled that the case is on the agenda since a long time now, and that Cyprus authorities have committed to solve the situation, but that progress is unfortunately too slow. He concluded by requesting that the Standing Committee keeps the case file open.

The representative of MEDASSET, Ms Lily Venizelos, supported the views expressed by the participants and confirmed that marine turtle conservation in Cyprus is at stake and that adequate measures to reverse the situation should be urgently put in place.

Decisions: The Committee regretted the absence of Delegate of Cyprus, as well as the lack of comprehensive information on the concrete measures undertaken by the Party to address the matters related to the complaint. The Committee took note of the information provided by Terra Cypria on the many threats affecting sea turtle nesting beaches and other important habitats. The Committee took further note of the state of progress of the exchanges between Cyprus and the European Commission concerning the presumed insufficient designation of the Natura 2000 area.

In the light of the above, the Committee decided to keep the case file open and encouraged Cyprus to fully implement its Recommendation No. 63 (1997) and to report namely on the concrete measures implemented to avoid further deterioration of the concerned habitats.

Considering the urgent need of protecting these unique sites from further destruction, the Committee invited Cyprus government to undertake any necessary step aimed at providing an early warning system against illegal damage and to inform the Committee on their implementation.

Finally, the Committee instructed the Bureau to continue to follow this issue, and requested the Secretariat to liaise with the European Union on this complaint.

➤ **Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra – Via Pontica**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 18 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 6 – NGO report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – EU report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 24 – Opinion of the Bureau

The Secretariat recalled that this case was first lodged to question the building of wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra, on the Black Sea coast, but has then extended to the exponential rise in wind farms' developments in Bulgaria.

At its first meeting in April 2013, the Bureau decided to keep the case file open and instructed the Group of Experts on the conservation of birds to put the assessment of this complaint on its agenda. In the absence of both Delegate of Bulgaria and representative of the NGO, the Group held a general exchange of views, acknowledging the efforts of the national authorities but expressing concern about the high number of developments in the same flyway and the cumulative effect of wind farms on globally threatened species.

At its last meeting, the Bureau deeply discussed the complaint, noted the tangible efforts of the authorities, and regretted the difficulty in conciliating bird conservation needs with the development of the green energy sector. The Bureau further discussed the coordination with the AEWA and other partners, including the EU, as a way for providing assistance to Bulgarian authorities on this matter. The Bureau members made several proposals, ending in a draft opinion for the attention of the Standing Committee.

The Secretariat summarised the main points of the draft opinion, which welcomes the recent actions taken by the Bulgarian authorities towards regulating and limiting windfarms projects but regrets the lengthy practical implementation of the new regulations adopted, particularly on those windfarms which have already been built or granted permits. In its opinion, the Bureau mainly recommends to request Bulgarian authorities to accept the AEWA IRP Mission to the region of Shabla and Durankulak, and to undertake urgent steps for the relocation of those windfarms which may have an impact on important conservation sites.

Finally, presenting the apologies for absence of the Delegate of Bulgaria, the Secretariat summarised the content of the last national report, submitted last October.

The report informs about some of the most recent actions undertaken by the authorities, including the extension of Kaliakra SPA to the border of the IBA, the identification of an additional area for bird conservation in the region of Dobrudja, the issuing of a ban on the construction of wind turbines and associated infrastructure in Bilo SPA, the issuing of an order for the declaration of Kaliakra Complex SPA under the EU Habitats Directive.

The Secretariat recalled that these measures have been undertaken in connection with the opening of an infringement procedure against Bulgaria at the EU level.

The representative of BirdLife Bulgaria, Ms Irina Mateeva, presented the NGO's updated views. She acknowledged the progress made by the authorities for implementing Recommendation No. 130 (2007), but stressed that some important issues have not been addressed yet. According to Ms Mateeva an habitat's deterioration in Kaliakra and Dobrudzha areas is continuing and little action has been taken to avoid the impact of the windfarms on the protected species present there. The situation of the

Smin windfarm is still unclear, as the government stopped the works, but the Supreme Administrative Court overruled the decision of the Ministry of Environment and validated the construction project. However, following new evidence brought against the conclusions of the EIA, the project was again stopped and a second court case opened.

Moreover, the NGO stressed that the recent changes in the Environmental Protection Law open the possibility for the authorities to reconsider some of the windfarms projects already approved, but that little information is available concerning the government's plans on this specific issue. In addition, relocation of the projects already under construction but affecting the integrity of the sites has not started yet. The NGO also regretted lack of new information on a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Bulgaria's wind energy programme, and on a moratorium on further turbines and windfarm projects in the coastal areas of Bulgaria until EIA and SEA reports are ready, as requested by the Standing Committee in its Recommendation.

In view of the above, Ms Mateeva requested the Committee to keep the case file open.

The representative of the UNEP/AEWA, Mr Sergey Dereliev, reported that the Ministry of Environment of Bulgaria just informed that a new EIA procedure will start for the Smin windfarm and that the authorities might appreciate advice from the UNEP/AEWA, including through an IRP mission to the country. Mr Dereliev concluded his statement by renewing the invitation to the Bern Convention to join the possible mission.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the information submitted in writing by the authorities of Bulgaria, as well as of the information presented by the complainant and other Observers.

The Committee took further note of the concern expressed by the Group of experts on the conservation of birds, and of the opinion of the Bureau which acknowledges and welcomes the steps undertaken by the government of Bulgaria to address the issue while stressing the serious possible threats posed to wild bird species and habitats by the continued development of windfarms in the country.

Furthermore, the Committee took due note of the statement of the representative of the UNEP/AEWA, informing on the very recent progress in communication between the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and Bulgarian authorities concerning a possible Implementation Review Process mission. In fact, in light of the new EIA procedure which will be initiated for the Smin windfarm, the authorities suggested that advice from the AEWA on the matter would be welcomed. The AEWA Secretariat expressed availability for keeping the Bern Convention informed of future developments and declared itself ready to invite the Convention to join a possible visit to the country next year.

In conclusion, the Committee decided to keep the case file open and gave mandate to the Bureau for its future collaboration with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. Furthermore, the Committee instructed the Secretariat to continue to follow-up this complaint in coordination with the European Union, as well as to request to Bulgarian authorities updated information regarding, in particular, any concrete step for the relocation of those windfarms which may have an impact on important conservation sites.

➤ **France: Habitats for the survival of the common hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*) in Alsace (France)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 36 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 43 – NGO report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – EU report

The Secretariat recalled the background of this long-standing case file which concerns the measures implemented by France to ensure the preservation of habitats needed for the survival of the common hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*) in Alsace (France). In the period 2012-2013 French authorities have deployed numerous initiatives aiming at concluding a stabilisation of the population, provided for in a National Action Plan targeting the species.

The Delegate of France, Ms Marianne Courouble, informed on positive and encouraging results of the implementation of these conservation measures through the action plan. He stressed that the species seems to be recapturing its old areas of presence and thus showing its mobility. He further mentioned the existence of areas of strict protection where new development projects are managed, alongside additional measures linked to agricultural practices in favour of the species.

However, the Delegate of France recognised the need for continuing conservation efforts, in particular towards the awareness-raising activities among the farmer community in view of ensuring stronger participation in the active implementation of the Action Plan. He concluded by underlying that the French authorities are confident thanks to the encouraging results obtained the last year, which were the result of strong institutional and financial investment.

The representatives of the NGOs stressed before the Committee that the measures put in place so far are insufficient although going in the right direction, in particular because the population is far from being viable. They stressed the fact that in some of the areas of intervention, the acceptance of the measures from the farming and local community is not ensured, while in some areas of the areas where the species is present the population is completely disappearing.

The Delegate of Norway stressed that the French authorities have deployed a lot of efforts and achieved good results in the last years. Taking into account that the Committee's role is to look for compliance of Parties, he proposed that the Committee could agree that France complied with its obligations and therefore the file could be closed. He reminded however that the Committee could ask France to report on progress in the implementation of measures aimed at improving the fragile conservation status of the Common Hamster in two years' time.

The representatives of the NGOs reminded again that the overall status of the species is not favorable and that not all administrative entities within the region concerned by the complaint are effectively implementing the measures foreseen by the Action Plan.

The Delegate of the Holy See, Mr Jean-Pierre Ribaut, considered that the Standing Committee should continue to follow-up on the situation of the species in France, as a way to encourage the further implementation of conservation measures in the future.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the progress report presented by France as well as of the worries expressed by three non-governmental organisations regarding the species' survival. The Committee recognised that a tangible increase of the distribution of the species and of the number of individuals is still to be achieved, and that progress should be subject to monitoring. However, the Committee also acknowledged the numerous actions carried out by French authorities in the last years, and stressed that France continues to deploy efforts to inverse the decline of the species in Alsace.

Therefore the Committee decided to close the case file and instructed the Bureau to monitor the implementation of the national and regional Action Plans in France. The French authorities are invited to report to the Standing Committee at its meeting in 2015 on progress achieved in the next two years.

➤ **Italy: Eradication and trade of the American Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 7 – Government report

The Secretariat recalled that this case concerns the presence of the American grey squirrel in Italy and the related potential to turn the invasion of this species into a continental problem.

The case file was opened in 2008, following an on-the-spot appraisal. The Committee requested Italy, *inter alia*, to adopt any useful measure to officially ban the trade of the species in the country.

The Secretariat informed that the Bureau assessed again this complaint at its first meeting in April 2013 and noted with satisfaction the legislative progress towards the eradication of the species in Italy. In fact, the national report submitted by the Delegate of Italy in January 2013 informed about the final adoption of the ban decree “Dispositions for the control of detention and trade of alien squirrels

of the species *Callosciurus erythraeus*, *Sciurus carolinensis* and *Sciurus niger*". In that context, the Bureau decided to keep the case file open and asked Italian authorities to report directly to the Standing Committee both on the results of the enforcement of the decree, as well as on the further implementation of the Life project.

The Delegate of Italy, Mr Vittorio De Cristofaro, summarised the content of the government report and explained the practical consequences linked to the adoption of the ban decree, namely the prohibition of the trade, breeding and detention of three alien squirrels, including the American grey squirrel. Few exemptions only concern zoos, circuses, research institutes, wildlife conservation bodies and scientific institutions. He then passed the floor to Mr Bertolino, project manager of the LIFE project on the eradication of the species, whom presented the latest information related to the eradication efforts.

Mr Bertolino stressed that, according to the most recent studies and observations, there are already areas in Italy where the presence of the American grey squirrel determined the extinction of the native red squirrel. For instance in Lombardy region, the project revealed that there are now at least 36 populations compared to the initial 10 known before the launch of the eradication project. Therefore the results expected from the project and within its timeframe have been redimensioned and the activities concentrate now on achieving the eradication in at least one Macroarea and a strong reduction in two others.

Mr Bertolino shared however encouraging information on the return of the red squirrel in those areas where the eradication succeeded and emphasised on the difficulties encountered by the project's implementers due to animal welfare considerations from the wider public. In fact, the eradication campaign had so far to face appeals to the Administrative Courts of the concerned Regions, political pressure, petitions and public demonstrations. Moreover, the authorities lack the support of the Media, which do not inform on the scientific consequences of the presence of the American grey squirrel on the native species. To counter this hostility, a Communication Action Plan has been developed under the project; it is hoped that this targeted communication will help facilitating the further implementation of the eradication measures in the concerned regions.

Decisions: The Committee expressed satisfaction for the efforts of Italian authorities towards achieving the eradication of the species, and very much welcomed the adoption of the decree for banning the trade, breeding and detention of the American grey squirrel.

Considering that the LIFE project EC-SQUARE is still ongoing, the Committee decided to keep this case file open, and requested Italian authorities to inform the Committee on the state of implementation of the eradication project at its next meeting.

➤ **Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 17 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 15 – Report by the complainant (MEDASSET)
T-PVS/Files (2013) 49 – NGO report (ARCHELON)
T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – EU report

In the absence of Delegate of Greece, the Secretariat recalled that at last Standing Committee meeting and on the basis of the critical information submitted by the NGO, the Committee decided to keep the complaint as a possible file, emphasising on the need to be informed by the authorities on the state of the situation in the area.

Moreover, the Secretariat informed that in 2013 the Party had been invited to report on concrete aspects such as the state of conservation and management of the area, enforcement of relevant legislation, assessment of possible negative impact of the tourism developments, and mitigation measures envisaged. In March, the Secretariat received a short e-mail summarising the content of a letter sent by Greek authorities to the European Commission about the official schedule foreseen by the Greek government to prevent further degradation of the natural habitats and the improvement of

the situation. The communication included information about the issuing of a Ministerial Decision of Suspension/Prohibition of all construction activities on the beach; the further preparation of a Joint Ministerial Decision to offer a specific legal protection regime for the site for two years; the preparation of a management plan; and the updating of the Specific Environmental Study that was carried out in 2002. Unfortunately, no information on the demolition protocols, or any other enforcement measure was included in that correspondence.

In the meantime the complainant acknowledged some positive progress but raised still pending and new concern. Although the Secretariat reiterated its reporting request to the authorities, no new information was received for the second meeting of the Bureau.

Regretting the lack of concrete information on the conservation and management of the area, as well as the enforcement of relevant legislation, the Bureau suggested that the case file should be discussed as a file open at the 33rd Standing Committee meeting.

Before passing the floor to the complainant, the Secretariat summarised the content of the report sent by Greek authorities in October, informing that the Ministerial Decision of Suspension/Prohibition of all construction and agricultural activities in the broader coastal area was issued in May; a Ministerial Decision issued in July has put in place a basic set of management measures concerning the reproduction of the sea turtle; in June the authorities commissioned to a Professor of the University of Athens a detailed study of the area in order to provide all the necessary environmental data that will form the basis of a Joint Ministerial Decision.

Moreover, in January 2014 there should be a Decision offering a specific legal protection regime for the site (GR 2550005) during the next 2 (+1) years. This should include an integrated management plan and measures for the cessation of all disturbing activities and infrastructures with an emphasis to sand dune restoration, where possible.

Finally, the Secretariat stressed that as far as the demolition protocols are concerned, the authorities recalled that this is a responsibility of the Regional and Judicial Authorities of Peloponnese, which are expected to implement the related decisions.

The representative of MEDASSET, Ms Liza Boura, presented a power point including photos of examples of habitat degradation due to the recent development of roads, large and small-scale housing development plans, installation of greenhousing, and the presence of heavy machinery and vehicles on the nesting beaches. Moreover, Ms Boura stressed that the illegal construction on nesting beaches, beach bars, littering and light pollution at night continue to affect the fragile site and therefore she requested that the case is kept open and that the Committee requests the cessation of all infrastructure and/or development activities within the area.

Decisions: The Committee regretted the absence of Delegate of Greece, took note of the information submitted in writing by national authorities, but recalled the interest of the Committee in receiving more detailed information on concrete enforcement measures.

The Committee further noted the updated information presented by MEDASSET and expressed worries about the continued developments in the Natura 2000 site and the possible threats these may cause to the habitats and species of the area.

Considering the matter as urgent, the Committee decided to keep the case file open and instructed the Secretariat to seek the agreement of Greece on an on-the-spot appraisal to be carried out in the first semester of next year.

6.2 Possible files

➤ **France: Protection of the European green toad (*Bufo viridis*) in Alsace**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 16 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 47 – NGOs Reports
T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – Report by the EU

The case concerns the threats to the few remaining habitats of the European green toad (*Bufo viridis*) in Alsace, resulting in particular from major bypass and urban development projects, and a project for the construction of a leisure complex in the region.

In the absence of a representative of the NGO, the Secretariat summarised the complaint. The last updated information received from the NGO in October 2013 confirmed their good co-operation with the regional authorities in Alsace on the planning and implementation of the Regional Action Plans on the green toad. However, the NGO warned that according to the last studies held, the situation of the species in the sub-region of the Haut-Rhin is still critical. They further reminded that the National Action Plan is yet to be validated by the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.

The Delegate of France agreed that the drafting of the National Action Plan encountered some difficulties in the last two years, but confirmed that the Plan should be finalised beginning of 2014 and adopted before the end of the first semester. However, she stressed that the two regional action plans in Alsace and Lorraine are operational and active with various awareness-raising activities, production of technical guidelines for project developers, planning of new protected areas also for the species, all in consultation with relevant actors.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the information presented by the Delegate of France and the summary of the observations of the NGO, presented by the Secretariat. The Committee acknowledged the progress in the implementation of measures in favour of the conservation of the species through the enforcement of the regional Action Plans in the Alsace and Lorraine regions, and noted the upcoming finalisation and adoption of the National Action Plan in the summer of 2014. The Committee welcomed the good co-operation between the regional authorities and the complainant NGO on the planning and implementation of actions in the Alsace region.

The Committee decided to keep the complaint in stand-by, taking into account that the final official adoption of the National Action Plan is still undergoing.

➤ **Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 21 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 9 – NGO report

The Secretariat recalled that this complaint was registered as a possible file at last year Committee meeting, after the presentation by MEDASSET of a detailed report alerting the Committee on the possible severe threats which the presumed lack of adequate management of Fethiye and Patara SPAs could pose to the marine turtles' nesting activity.

The national authorities addressed to the Bureau an informative report which provides some scientific data collected through a monitoring exercise in 2012, but which doesn't address all the issues raised by the Secretariat in its reporting request. Namely, the Bureau regretted the lack of concrete information on the measures and actions whose implementation was foreseen this year, as well as the steps towards the removal of illegal or unauthorised constructions in both Fethiye and Patara SPAs. At its last meeting, the Bureau requested the Party to provide an updated report, including more recent information related to, among others, the breeding season.

The representative of MEDASSET, Ms Liza Boura, briefly introduced the background to this complaint, and referred to the Recommendations already adopted by the Standing Committee on the protection and conservation of nesting beaches in Turkey.

She then presented updated information on the situation in both Fethiye and Patara. According to her report, there was no improvement in 2013 on the protection and effective management of the nesting beaches and the conservation problems already denounced continued to persist.

More concretely regarding Patara, Ms Boura focussed her presentation on the threat posed to the conservation of the beach by the urbanisation's projects aimed at building between 400 and 750 villas on the beach frontline, nearby the nesting sites. She also showed some pictures of the already built 27 summer houses which are supposed to be inhabited in 2014. She then mentioned the other threats among which the lack of guarding and effective signage, camping, littering, etc.

In this context, Ms Boura requested the re-evaluation of the scale of the tourism development project in the 3rd Degree Archaeological Area, the implementation of an Environmental Impact Assessment, the elaboration of an updated SPA management plan to manage visitor flows prior to the 2014 tourist season.

On Fethiye, Ms Boura showed pictures taken during the summer season in 2013 clearly showing the lack of effective signage and guarding, lack of management of the beach furniture which remains in place also at night, beach access at night and consequent light pollution, creation of parking spaces, wooden pavillons, temporary discos, and even a new road. MEDASSET collected data showing the continuous nesting decline which the NGO considers to be the direct consequence of the above.

The Delegate of Turkey, Mr Burak Tatar, explained that the authorities are aware of the situation and committed to revert it. In fact, the process of reorganisation of the competencies within the bodies responsible for nature conservation had an impact on the efficiency of the response of the government, but now some steps have been taken to ensure that the effective management of both areas is done in compliance with the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the detailed presentation made by MEDASSET, concerning the severe impact of tourism developments and infrastructures, negatively affecting both Fethiye and Patara important nesting beaches.

The Committee took further note of the position of the Delegate of Turkey, confirming his authorities' availability for addressing this urgent and serious situation.

On the basis of the discussions held, the Committee decided to open the file as a mean for encouraging relevant bodies at national level to work towards greater accountability, co-operation, and responsibility.

Besides, the Committee instructed the Secretariat to promptly approach Turkish authorities with a detailed reporting request, and mandated the Chair of the Standing Committee to convey the Committee's concern to the responsible national authorities, together with the relevant proposals of assistance.

➤ **Turkey: threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 26 – Government report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 22 – NGO report

The Secretariat informed that this complaint was assessed only once in 2013 since at last Standing Committee meeting the Delegate of Turkey informed that the issue was pending before the Turkish National Court and that the authorities would be monitoring all developments related to this complaint and inform the Secretariat as soon as the Turkish Justice would emit its judgement.

Nevertheless, the Secretariat was pleased to note that, in August, the authorities informed that the competent Ministry sent a pool of experts to the area for preparing an official report on the state of the situation and that – meanwhile – the authorities stopped the works in the area.

Moreover, at the request of the Bureau the complainant addressed a short report informing on the results of the monitoring carried out in the past two years using photo-traps, showing that in 2013 the

Balıkli cave has been actively used by two females, two males and 1 monk seal pup that was born in the cave. However, the complainant also stressed that the number of seals using the cave can be higher than the number of seals observed but nevertheless lower if compared to the period before the construction started.

The Delegate of Turkey, Mr Tatar, confirmed the information summarised by the Secretariat and added that the final judgment is expected in the shortby. He also reiterated his authorities' commitment to inform the Secretariat as soon as the judgement will be published. Moreover, he informed that the report following the on-the-spot investigation confirmed that monk seal is again using the cave, and this since the construction in the nearby were stopped by the authorities.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the latest information submitted by the complainant, as well as of the presentation made by the Delegate of Turkey. The Committee noted that the issue is pending before a National Court and that the decision is expected soon. Besides, the Committee congratulated Turkish authorities for taking the initiative of setting-up a pool of experts to examine the situation and for deciding, meanwhile, to suspend the construction works until their possible impact on the morphology of the cave and – as a consequence - on the monk seal are assessed.

Finally, the Committee decided to keep the complaint as a possible file and invited Turkish authorities to keep the Bureau informed of any new development, including on the Court's decision, within the appropriate delays.

➤ **Possible spread of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in Poland**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2012) 35 – NGO report + addendum
T-PVS/Files (2013) 30 – Government Report
T-PVS/Files (2013) 13 – EU report

The Secretariat recalled that this complaint was lodged in 2012 by a Polish citizen worried about the fact that the American mink (*Mustela vison*) was not included in the national list of non-native plants and animals that might endanger native species. Information exchange between the authorities and the Bureau were regular in 2012. However, at that time the Bureau considered that the complaint should be followed as a complaint in stand-by since the risk of escape of the American mink into the wild was considered to be high, and several European countries were already confronted to this situation.

The Secretariat further informed that, in September 2013, the Bureau decided to change the status the complaint and forward it to the Committee as a possible file because its reiterated reporting requests to the authorities remained unanswered. In fact, the Secretariat explained that only very recently the Secretariat and the Party discovered a problem in communication following the appointment in Poland of a new focal point for the Bern Convention and, actually, the current Delegate didn't receive any of the reporting requests addressed to the Party.

The Delegate of Poland, Ms Małgorzata Opęchowska, explained that the inclusion of species into the national list of non-native plants and animals involves the request of specific permissions of the competent authorities for bringing the plant or animal from abroad in the national territory, and also for the keeping, breeding, reproducing, offering for sale and selling of the IAS.

She then gave information on the Polish population of wild American mink, as well as on the measures implemented for its eradication. Moreover, the Delegate provided an overview of the system of control in place for the mink farms, as well as of the measures to prevent escapes into the wild.

In this respect, an audit was conducted to assess the effectiveness of State supervision on the running of fur farms and, taking into account its results, the Minister of the Environment has decided to make amendments to the Regulation on the list of non-native plants and animals species, which if released to the environment might endanger native species or natural habitats, in order to include the American mink into its annex I.

The Delegate concluded by informing that the draft amendments to the Regulation and its annex are under preparation.

Decisions: The Committee took due note of the information submitted by the complainant, as well as of the report presented by the Delegate of Poland.

The Committee particularly welcomed the announcement of the decision of the Minister of the Environment to amend the “Regulation on the list of non-native plants and animals which – if released to the environment - might endanger the native species or natural habitats”, so to include in its annex I both the American mink and the raccoon.

In the light of the above, the Committee decided to keep this complaint under scrutiny as a possible file, until the amendments to the Regulation are notified to the Secretariat and the Bureau.

6.3 On the spot appraisal

➤ France / Switzerland: threats to the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland)

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 45 – Report of the on-the-spot appraisal
 T-PVS/Files (2013) 40 – Complainant Report on the on-the-spot appraisal (Pro-Natura, Switzerland)
 T-PVS/Files (2013) 50 – Complainant Report on the on-the-spot appraisal (FNE, France)
 T-PVS/Files (2013) 46 – Comments of the Swiss Government
 T-PVS/Files (2013) 53 – Comments of the Government of France to the draft recommendation
 T-PVS (2013) 14 – Draft recommendation

The Secretariat recalled that this complaint was lodged in 2011 to denounce the threat of decline of the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs River (France) and the canton of Jura (Switzerland).

Following the suggestion of the Standing Committee, the concerned Parties agreed to an on-the-spot appraisal aimed at preparing a list of recommended actions.

The on-the-spot appraisal was carried out in July 2013 under the lead of Professor Jean-Claude Philippart and according to terms of reference prepared by the Secretariat.

The appraisal included a 2-day visit to Saint-Ursanne (Canton of Jura, Switzerland), and a 1 day-visit to Ornans and Quingey (Doubs Department, France), during which the expert met with the representatives of the concerned Parties as well as of the NGOs.

The programme of the visit included in-room discussions and different in situ visits to observe the natural environment of the species and some visible problems (hydroelectric works, *algae*).

The Secretariat concluded by reminding that, following the visit, Professor Philippart prepared an appraisal report including a set of recommendations, which the Bureau has forwarded to the Standing Committee.

In his presentation to the Committee, Professor Philippart provided information on the conservation status of the species as well as on the main threats it faces in the concerned regions. He also stressed that in France, the species has been targeted by two dedicated LIFE Projects implemented between 1998 and 2009, and is now concerned by the National Action Plan for the Streber, running until 2016. Although these projects have been essential to gather scientific information on the Rhone streber, major efforts should continue to be deployed for restoring the habitats of the species, as well as for reducing water pollution.

Professor Philippart also mentioned the positive results obtained in the River Loue (France) in terms of re-establishing connectivity by building specific fishways.

Regarding Switzerland, Professor Philippart recalled that the area where the Rhone streber is present is also an Emerald site which should get a maximum degree of protection, together with the whole Doubs ecosystem. However, habitat fragmentation, the presence in the environment of heavy pollutants and water eutrophication are matters which should be urgently addressed.

The collaboration now initiated between the French and Swiss authorities towards the implementation of complementary measures, possibly ending in the coordinated implementation of two National Action Plans is undoubtedly essential.

Both the Delegates of France and Switzerland took the floor to thank Professor Philippart for his accurate work and analysis, as well as the Convention for suggesting the on-the-spot appraisal as a tool for finding solutions to existing problems.

The Delegate of France, Ms Marianne Courouble, particularly thanked the expert for reflecting in his report the efforts carried out by French authorities over the past years, as well as for the suggestions and recommendations made. However, she transmitted some observations on the lack of clarity in some of the terminology used in the draft recommendation, and also concerning the timeframe for the implementation of the recommended actions. She concluded by informing the Committee that informal discussions have taken place with the other concerned Party as well as with the representatives of the NGOs and that agreement was reached on a number of amendments.

The Delegate of Switzerland, Ms Sarah Pearson Perret, thanked all the participants in the on-the-spot appraisal and stressed that the visit was extremely useful for fully taking into account the complexity of the issues at stake and encouraging swift discussions. She considered that on-the-spot appraisal should be more often used in situations where communication and co-operation is necessary.

She further expressed some doubts on the recommendation of launching a breeding conservation programme in Switzerland, since the population concerned seems to be too small and the national experts expressed some worries about the possible adverse effects that such a programme could have if individuals are taken out of the already small population and reintroductions do not produce positive effects.

She finally concluded by confirming that an agreed text for the draft recommendation has been negotiated with France and the NGOs and that the latter would be submitted in writing to the Committee.

The representatives of the NGO summarised the report submitted to the attention of the Standing Committee, and stressed that one of the main outcomes of the appraisal's visit from the perspective of the NGOs was to highlight the problems related to water pollution. Regarding the Loue River, they stressed that additional expertise on agricultural pollution could be helpful.

On Switzerland, the NGOs consider a priority the establishment of a maximum protection zone for the species, also using the specific protection needs of Emerald sites.

They concluded by thanking both the authorities and the experts for the good co-operation and expressed the wish that the dynamic initiated through this dialogue will ensure the survival of the species.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the report of the on-the-spot appraisal and warmly thanked Professor Philippart for the excellent work done in its preparation.

The Committee further took note of the comments of both the concerned Parties and the complainants, whom agreed in considering the on-the-spot appraisal as a particularly successful experience, which has produced real effects on the dynamic of the transboundary co-operation for the conservation of this threatened species. Despite a very complex situation at the beginning of the process, the concerned stakeholders dispose now of a wide range of information which has helped initiating discussions at regional level on a very swift way, and dialogue between all actors is now focussed at solving existing problems through a positive and constructive approach.

The Committee noticed that the concerned Parties and the complainants reached agreement on a number of amendments to the recommendations proposed following the on-the-spot appraisal and therefore examined and adopted the following recommendation:

- Recommendation No. 169 (2013) on the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland)

Finally, taking into account the good progress on addressing the survival of the Rhone streber in the Doubs and in the canton of Jura, the Committee instructed the Bureau to assess this complaint as a complaint in stand-by at its meetings, in the light of the implementation by the Parties of the recommended actions.

6.4 Follow-up of previous recommendations

NB This agenda item is for information only.

- **Recommendation No. 162 (2012) on the conservation of large carnivores populations in Europe requesting special conservation action**

Relevant document T-PVS/Files (2013) 39 – Compilation of Governments' reports

- **Recommendation No. 154 (2011) on the European Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2013) 38 – Compilation of Governments' reports

The Secretariat introduced this agenda item by recalling the content of the recommendations and further explained that, due to the very low number of reports received, it was not possible to carry out a proper assessment of the progress in their implementations.

Decisions: The Committee thanked those Parties who submitted reports for the monitoring of the implementation of the two recommendations mentioned above, but regretted to note their very low number. The Committee recalled that a meaningful monitoring can only be carried out with the co-operation of the Parties, and invited those who have not yet sent a report, to do so in the coming months. Both issues could be then discussed by the relevant Group of Experts at their respective meetings.

- **Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanli beach (Turkey)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2013) 51 – Report by the Turkish Government
T-PVS/Files (2013) 52 – Report by the NGO

The Secretariat recalled that this recommendation was adopted in 2002 and originated from a complaint lodged in 2000 and an on-the-spot appraisal carried out in 2002. The recommendation addresses a series of actions which Turkey is invited to implement in order to grant the long-term conservation of the beach's quality for marine turtles nesting. Among other key issues, the recommendation invites Turkey to remove as a matter of urgency the row of greenhouses closest to the sea in beach section K3 and, as soon as feasible, other greenhouses in the same beach section, as well as to maintain monitoring of the chemical waste discharge into the sea by the chrome factory.

In 2013 MEDASSET recalled that there has been no news or report on progress for the safe disposal of the 1.5 million tons of highly toxic solid waste located right next to Kazanli's most important green turtle nesting site.

Therefore the Bureau invited the authorities to report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of the recommended actions.

The representative of MEDASSET, Ms Lily Venizelos, recalled that green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), are regarded as globally endangered and that the beach of Kazanli in Southern Turkey forms one of the most important green turtle's nesting areas in the Mediterranean. She further stressed that part of Kazanli nesting beach is nationally designated as a 1st Degree Natural 'SIT' Protected Area.

The beach is subject to continuous deterioration since the 1980's, when a number of serious threats were already identified without that the responsible authorities be able to take action.

Beach erosion is one of the most serious threats to Kazanlı nesting beach since it leaves no space for turtle nesting. Ms Venizelos said that beach erosion should urgently be stopped and destroyed nesting beaches rehabilitated to their natural state.

She further informed on the activities of the soda chrome factory, which has deposited 1.5 million tons of hazardous toxic waste, covered with plastic sheeting, directly next to the Kazanlı nesting beach. The waste has a high concentration of toxic chromium (Cr 3+/6+) compounds, and is a by-product of the factory's activities in the 1990s. According to MEDASSET, the removal of this hazardous waste from the beach is of high priority for environmental and human health.

MEDASSET recalled that in 2009 the Turkish authorities provided a written report informing on the preparation of EIA studies, as well as on an investment made to establish a neutralisation plant. Moreover, the removal of toxic was to start soon, and would take around 8-10 years.

Since 2009, no written report was submitted by the Turkish authorities on progress in the implementation of the recommended measures. However, the authorities informed the Standing Committee orally at the 30th Meeting (2010) stating that the toxic waste neutralisation process had started and 200,000 tonnes of chromium were already neutralised. No further information or details have been reported by the Turkish Authorities since.

Ms Venizelos concluded her presentation considering that Turkish authorities achieved some progress in handling the situation but, so far, they failed to address (or to communicate on) at least two of the recommendations made by the Committee in Recommendation No. 66 (1998) and namely to remove the adjacent "greenhouses" and the solid waste, particularly plastics; and to resolve the pollution problem from the soda chrome factory. Regarding the implementation of Recommendation No. 95 (2002), adopted following the on-the-spot appraisal carried out after the submission of a formal complaint, the authorities should still achieve results or communicate on putting in place a monitoring of beach erosion, so as to take remedial measures as needed; and on removing as appropriate the hazardous waste accumulated over the years close to the beach as a result of industrial activities.

The Delegate of Turkey informed about several measures implemented to comply with the recommendations adopted by the Committee, including the launch of an awareness raising programme on habitats protection and marine turtle conservation, targeting both visitors and local people; training for local officials; periodic removal of waste. Moreover, the Delegate informed that the entrance of motorised vehicles to the beach has been banned, although he recognised that little progress was achieved in the removal of illegal buildings.

Regarding the chemical waste, the Delegate informed that disposal of toxic waste is ongoing since 2009 and that the latest analysis on the presence of chromium reveals that the latter is well below the limits. On the Environment Impact Assessment, the Delegate informed that this is still under preparation but the process is not stopped. He concluded by highlighting the good-will and commitment of his authorities to address all the recommended actions.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the reports presented by the Delegate of Turkey and the representative of the NGO. It welcomed and acknowledged the progress made by Turkey for implementing some of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee, although it recognised that a number of other issues still needs to be solved for ensuring the effective conservation of Kazanlı beach's habitats and species.

The Committee decided to re-assess the implementation of this recommendation at its next meeting.

➤ **(Afforestation in Iceland)**

The representative of BirdLife International expressed concern about developments in the past years regarding the Icelandic policy of subsidising the afforestation of their lowlands, which might have an impact on the breeding waterbird populations.

The Delegate of Iceland declared that Iceland would be glad to report on this matter at the next Standing Committee meeting and suggested that the follow-up of Recommendation No. 96 (2002) on conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, especially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland is put on the agenda of the 34th Standing Committee meeting.

The Committee agreed to monitor the implementation of Recommendation No. 96 (2002) at its next meeting and instructed the Bureau to coordinate the necessary reporting requests.

PART VI – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

7. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

7.1 International coordination with other MEAs and organisations

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 33 - Strategic Goal C, Aichi Targets 11 and 12: Statement of the Bern Convention to the 17th Meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, Montreal (Canada) 14-18 October 2013- statement by the Secretariat
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 9 - International coordination on Species Recovery Plans – Background document by BirdLife
T-PVS/Inf (2013) 25 – Statement by the UNEP/CMS Technical Workshop on Minimizing Poisoning of Migratory Birds

The Secretariat made a short update on the activities aimed at coordinating the work of the Convention with the one carried out by other related stakeholders.

The co-operation with the European Union (European Commission) continued and focussed more particularly on the follow-up to complaints, development of protected areas and ecological networks, and illegal killing of birds. In order to get acquainted with the general work on biodiversity carried out at the level of the European Commission, the Secretariat attended the two meetings of the EU Coordination Group on Biodiversity and Nature, before which it enjoys Observer status. Moreover, two coordination meetings were organised for the implementation of the Memorandum of Co-operation between the Convention and the European Environment Agency.

Concerning the IUCN, the co-operation with the Convention concentrated more particularly on preparing the new guidance on Invasive Alien Species, and finalising the European Charter on Fungi-Gathering and Biodiversity. Moreover, the Convention joined, from the very beginning, a IUCN initiative for promoting the fulfilment by Parties to the CBD of Aichi target 12.

On the co-operation with the CMS the Secretariat reminded the Week on the Conservation of Birds, and informed that next year the coordination should focus on the follow-up to be given to the work carried out by the CMS on poisoning of birds and other related issues.

The Secretariat also recalled that discussions on a possible co-operation between the Convention and the INTERPOL on assisting Parties to combat illegal killing of birds started in 2013 and will be pursued next year.

Furthermore, the Secretariat expressed readiness for joining the possible AEWI Implementation Review Process (IRP) missions to the countries where the assistance of the Convention could be relevant, and in conjunction with the complaints lodged. Co-operation should also intervene in the near future on the follow-up to bird species action plan (within the limits of the capacity and budget under the Convention) and, possibly, on the follow-up of activities related to the Energy sector and birds.

Besides, the Secretariat recalled that, while keeping the focus on the specific obligation and work of the Convention, the staff members and the Bureau have worked very much on ensuring that the implementation of the Convention's Programme of Activity could be useful for Parties in fulfilling their objectives under the CBD. The Secretariat informed that information documents on the outcomes of the Convention's activities have been regularly submitted to the CBD for information.

Finally, the Secretariat stressed that BirdLife International and the FACE are reliable and longstanding partners for birds' related issues and informed that the co-operation with both NGOs will continue next year, particularly regarding the future implementation of the Tunis Action Plan.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the report on the many coordination activities carried out by the Secretariat to improve synergies with other MEAs and organisations and expressed satisfaction for the evident progress made and the positive effects on the relevance and visibility of the Convention. The Committee encouraged the Secretariat to pursue this way and thanked all MEAs and organisations which contributed to improving international coordination on biodiversity related issues.

7.2 Harmonising international reporting: possible adoption of the CMS Family Online Reporting System

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 31 - Bern Convention: using the Online Reporting System

The Secretariat explained that the so-called Online Reporting System (ORS) is a new electronic platform developed by the Secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species and the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (UNEP-AEWA) with UNEP-WCMC, to transform national reporting under Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs). The system is designed to help ensure that better data is available for global decision-makers to track progress towards – among others - the Aichi targets, and to simplify the task of national authorities in meeting reporting requirements. Applied to the Bern Convention, the ORS would enable Parties to submit their reports online, including the biennial reports which are compulsory under the conditions of Art. 9 of the Convention. The information would be then compiled, stored and accessible, significantly reducing burdens on Parties.

The Secretariat concluded its short introduction by stressing that the discussions on the possible adoption of the ORS will not impact obligations but only deal with the tools used for complying with them.

The representative of the AEWA, Mr Sergey Dereliev, presented the main technical features of the system and gave an evaluation of AEWA staff experience with the tool. He stressed that online reporting is increasingly used to monitor progress in many spheres as it provides easy access to information and can provide a secure way to store data as well as being cost-effective in terms of data submission. He further explained that, despite some work for testing and adapting the system to the AEWA, the ORS has already been successful in raising the submission rate for AEWA MOP5, showing that the Parties found it easier to report through this tool than through the old system. The ORS is also currently in use by CMS for the 2013-2014 reporting cycle and is undergoing testing by CITES for biennial reporting.

At the Party level, the ORS enables national authorities to compile their information in one place, but also to delegate sections of the report to be completed by staff from different departments. The information from previous reporting cycles is retained in the ORS and can be updated in subsequent reporting cycles, thus improving efficiency.

The Delegate of Slovenia, Mr Peter Skoberne, expressed appreciation for the efforts of coordination in reporting, and asked technical questions regarding the interface for data collection and storage, in order to ensure that the burden on Parties is really reduced.

The Delegate of Norway, Mr Øystein Størkensen, expressed a very positive opinion towards the development of online reporting tools and particularly appreciated the possibility of storing electronic data which could be then easily analysed.

The Delegate of Lithuania, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, expressed support in principle for the use of the ORS and recognised the advantage of having and maintaining a unified multi-purpose reporting system. However, taking into account that there are already agreed arrangements between the EU and its Member States concerning the EU reporting under the Bern Convention, the EU requested additional time for considering the ORS proposal.

Decisions: The Committee took note of the favourable views expressed by Parties on the adoption of the CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS). The Committee particularly acknowledged the interest of harmonising and streamlining MAEs reporting systems through an internet platform which seems to be cost-effective and which would simplify the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, provide easier access to information, and offer a secure way to store data.

The Committee also noted that the ORS is being further developed and that future phases of this development will bring into the system additional capacities which may be useful to the Convention on the long-term.

Besides, the Committee highlighted that the adoption of the ORS will not create new obligations for Parties, but only provide them with an innovative and more user-friendly tool for their reporting.

However, given that the EU and its Member States have existing internal arrangements concerning the EU reporting under the Bern Convention, the Committee decided to mandate the Chair of the Standing Committee and the Bureau for encouraging and contributing to reach a coordinated EU position which would allow for the smooth adoption of the ORS in the first half of 2014.

7.3 Financing the Bern Convention

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2013) 19 – Report of the meeting of the Advisory Group on Budgetary Matters
 T-PVS/Inf (2013) 35 - Key Points: The Bern Convention: a priority treaty for Democracy in Europe
 T-PVS/Inf (2013) 21 - Proposals and suggestions on ways and means to ensure the appropriate funding for the strategic development and implementation of the Bern Convention – National contributions
 T-PVS (2013) 7 - Draft Decision on financing the Bern Convention

The Secretariat summarised the outcomes of the meeting of the Advisory Group on Budgetary matters which, building on interesting suggestions received by the Parties, could reach an interesting and shared proposal for ensuring a more sustainable funding of the Convention. The Secretariat further mentioned those suggestions received by Parties which couldn't be retained because they didn't appear to be adaptable to the Council of Europe environment.

Finally the Secretariat presented the main points of the draft decision prepared by the Bureau and the main issues at stake.

Decisions: The Committee took careful note of the report of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Budgetary matters, as well as of its proposals for a decision on possible ways to ensure a more sustainable and predictable financing of the Convention. It further thanked all the Parties which submitted written positions on this serious matter and congratulated the Secretariat for achieving to prepare a document which represents a very good compromise for all Parties and addresses in an effective way the issue of the financial sustainability of the Convention.

After carefully considering all views expressed by the Parties, the Committee decided:

1. To maintain the double funding system consisting in completing the provision regularly allocated by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (including those coming from the enforcement of CM/Res(2013)7, concerning financial arrangements for the participation of non-member States in Council of Europe conventions) to the Convention's Ordinary Budget with funds allocated to the Convention's Special Account by additional resources;

2. That these additional resources will come from contributions done by those Parties wishing to provide additional financial support to the implementation of the Programme of Activities or to sponsor one or more specific actions requiring extra-funds for their implementation;
3. That additional contributions will remain the will of Parties and will not follow a legal obligation;
4. That the Secretariat will advise – bilaterally and on an annual basis – those Parties who request a suggested scale of contribution, by providing them with an indicative amount;
5. That the provisions of the Ordinary Budget will be mainly devoted to Convention’s core activities, in particularly its statutory meetings and its monitoring mechanisms, while additional activities will be (fully or partially) implemented as they receive additional contributions;
6. That the expenses for the organisation of the meetings of the Convention’s Group of Experts will be optimised by:
 - Asking some Parties (particularly the EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway and Switzerland) to check the possibility of regularly funding the participation of their own delegates;
 - Dispensing with simultaneous interpretation on an exceptional basis where circumstances permit;
 - Making excursions optional and thus excluded from the reimbursement of daily allowances;
 - Coordinating with other MEAs in order to organise, where appropriate, back-to-back meetings.The Standing Committee further invited Parties to:
 - a. Consider the possibility of increasing the number and type of in-kind contributions, for instance by asking appointed delegates or experts from their States, to volunteer for the drafting and preparation of specific, technical background reports, moderate technical working groups – namely those organised under the Group of Experts, deliver keynote speeches;
 - b. Encourage Delegateds to maintain regular contacts with the representatives of their States in the Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe;
 - c. Encourage Ministries of Environment to uphold the Bern Convention at the national level, advocating before other Ministries for the added value of the Council of Europe work in the field of nature conservation;
 - d. Consider the possibility of temporarily seconding national, regional or local officials to the Bern Convention’s Secretariat, according to the general rules laid down in Resolution CM/Res(2012)2 establishing Regulations for secondments to the Council of Europe.The full text of the decision is included in document T-PVS (2013) 7.

7.4 Draft Programme of Activities for 2014 - 2015

Relevant document: T-PVS (2013) 8 – Draft Programme of Activities 2014-2015

The Secretariat presented the Draft Programme of Activities for 2014-2015, as pre-validated by the Bureau at its September meeting.

The Secretariat explained that the format of this document has changed, in order to better reflect the Convention’s achievements and concrete results in the past year, and put in better evidence the link with the activities proposed for the near future. The suggested draft Programme of Activities includes a first narrative part consisting in a progress review of the current year, some highlights, information on communication and international co-operation, and acknowledgement of the additional financial contributions made by some Parties on a voluntary basis. The second part includes a list of activities proposed for the next biennium, with their estimated costs. Moreover, the budgetary table specifies the budget available from the Council of Europe and the extra-ordinary budget needed to complete the provisions allocated by the Committee of Ministers.

Decisions: The Committee examined its programme of activities for 2014 – 2015, and agreed to add a forecast for a meeting of the Group of Experts on Invertebrates in 2015.

The Committee amended and adopted the activities and budget for 2014 and the activities and provisional budget for 2015 (see appendix 13 to the present document).

7.5 States to be invited as observers to the 34th meeting

The Secretariat reminded that Council of Europe Member States are automatically invited to attend the Standing Committee's meetings. Moreover, the Secretariat suggested stopping inviting those states for which the contact details of the competent authorities are not clear or from which there has been a persistent lack of reply in the past years. Instead, the Secretariat suggested inviting the representatives of Algeria, the Holy See, and Jordan, all States with which the co-operation with the Council of Europe is consolidated.

Decision: The Committee decided unanimously to invite the following States to attend its 34th meeting: the Russian Federation, San Marino, Algeria, the Holy See, Jordan.

PART VII- OTHER ITEMS

8. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf (2013) 6 – Rules of Procedure: Standing Committee, on-the-spot enquiries, mediation

In accordance with Article 18(e) of the Rules of Procedure “*The Chair, Vice-Chair and two additional Bureau members shall be elected at the end of each meeting. They shall execute their respective terms of office from their election onwards until the end of the meeting following the meeting where they were elected. Their terms of office may be renewed, but the total length of term of office shall not exceed four years or, as appropriate, the end of the first meeting following the expiry of this period of four years*”.

The Committee elected Mr Jan Plesník (Czech Republic) as Chair.

The Committee elected Mr Øystein Størkersen (Norway) as Vice-Chair.

The Committee further elected Ms Jana Durkošová (Slovak Republic) and Ms Hasmik Ghalachyan (Armenia) as Bureau members.

According to Rule 19 of the Standing Committee's Rules of procedure, the Committee acknowledged the automatic election of the previous Chair, Mr Jón Gunnar Ottósson (Iceland), as a Bureau member.

9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 34TH MEETING

The Committee agreed to hold its next meeting on 2nd – 5th December 2014, in Strasbourg.

10. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

The Committee adopted document T-PVS (2013) Misc.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None were raised.

APPENDICES TO THE REPORT

- Appendix 1 List of participants
- Appendix 2 Agenda
- Appendix 3 Decision on financing the Bern Convention
- Appendix 4 Recommendation No. 164 (2013) on the Implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2020, on the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds
- Appendix 5 Recommendation No. 165 (2013) on the implementation of twenty-one new or revised action plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area
- Appendix 6 Recommendation No. 166 (2013) on the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species
- Appendix 7 Recommendation No. 167 (2013) on the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species
- Appendix 8 Revised Criteria for assessing the National Lists of proposed Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs) at biogeographical level and procedure for examining and approving Emerald candidate sites
- Appendix 9 Revised Emerald Network Standard Data Form [Revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 5 (1998)]
- Appendix 10 Recommendation No. 168 (2013) on the European Charter of Fungi-gathering and biodiversity
- Appendix 11 Recommendation No. 169 (2013) on the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs (France) and in the cantons of Jura (Switzerland)
- Appendix 12 List of Candidate Emerald sites nominated on 6th December 2013
- Appendix 13 Programme of Activities and budget 2014 and 2015
- Appendix 14 List of Parties and Observers having made voluntary contributions to the 2013 activities

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Appendix 2

AGENDA

PART I – OPENING

1. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
2. **Chairman's report and communications from the delegations and from the Secretariat**

PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS

3. **Monitoring of the implementation of the legal aspects of the Convention**
 - 3.1 Biennial reports 2007-2008, 2009-2010, 2011-2012 concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 and quadrennial reports 2009 - 2012*

***Items for information:**

- T-PVS (2013) 2 and 10 Reports of the meetings of the Bureau
- T-PVS/Inf (2013) 19, 29, 30 Biennial and General Reports

PART III - INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

4. **Accession of Belarus to the Bern Convention**
 - 4.1 Report of the visit of representatives of the Secretariat to Republic of Belarus and Round Table dedicated to the accession of the country to the Convention
 - 4.2 Courtesy introductory report by the Government of Belarus

PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

5. **Monitoring of Species and Habitats**
 - 5.1 **Invasive Alien Species**
 - a. 10th Meeting of the Group of Experts on IAS (two draft recommendations)
 - b. Communicating on Invasive Alien Species
 - c. Monitoring of the European Strategy for the eradication of the ruddy duck (Side event)
 - 5.2 **Conservation of Birds – Draft Action Plan and draft recommendations**
 - a. 2nd Conference on Illegal killing of birds
 - b. 4th Meeting of the Group of Experts on the conservation of Birds
 - c. Wind-farms and birds – updated guidelines
 - d. Presentation of the conclusions of the Workshop on recovery and reintroduction of the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

* These items will not be discussed, unless Parties request so at the adoption of the Agenda.

5.3 Invertebrates

10th Meeting of the Group of Experts on Invertebrates (draft recommendation)

5.4 Conservation of Fungi

Final draft European Charter on gathering Fungi and Biodiversity (draft recommendation)

5.5 Habitats

- a. Protected Areas and Ecological Networks - Progress report, draft revised Standard Data Form of Annex 1 to resolution No. 5 (1998) and draft revised Criteria for the evaluation of proposed ASCIs
- b. Setting-up of ecological networks - Progress on the establishment of the Emerald Network
- c. European Diploma of Protected Areas – Adopted resolutions on the award and renewal of the European Diploma of protected areas

*Items for information:

- T-PVS/Inf (2013) 27 A manifesto for large carnivore conservation in Europe

PART V – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

6. Specific sites and populations

6.1 Files opened

- Ukraine: Proposed navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary (Danube delta)
- Cyprus: Akamas peninsula
- Bulgaria: Wind farms in Balchik and Kaliakra –Via Pontica
- France: Habitats for the survival of the common hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*) in Alsace
- Italy: Eradication and trade of the American grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)
- Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias

6.2 Possible files

- France: Protection of the European green toad (*Bufo viridis*) in Alsace
- Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey)
- Turkey: threat to the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*)
- Possible spread of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in Poland

6.3 On-the-spot appraisal

- France / Switzerland: threats to the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland) – Draft recommendation

6.4 Follow-up of previous Recommendations

- Recommendation No. 162 (2012) on the conservation of large carnivores populations in Europe requesting special conservation action;
- Recommendation No. 154 (2011) on the European Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species;
- Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach (Turkey)

* These items will not be discussed, unless Parties request so at the adoption of the Agenda.

PART VI – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

- 7. Strategic development of the Convention**
- 7.1 International coordination with other MEAs and organisations**
- 7.2 Harmonising international reporting: possible adoption of the CMS Family Online Reporting System**
- 7.3 Financing the Bern Convention**
 - a. Ad hoc Advisory Group of Experts on the long-term financing of the Bern Convention
 - b. Draft decision
- 7.4 Draft Programme of Activities for 2014 - 2015**
- 7.5 States to be invited as observers to the 34th meeting**

PART VII - OTHER ITEMS

- 8. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau members**
- 9. Date and place of the 34th meeting**
- 10. Adoption of the main decisions of the meeting**
- 11. Other business (items for information only)**

Appendix 3



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Decision of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2013, on financing the Bern Convention

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats,

Recognising the importance of the work carried out under the Convention for the conservation of European biodiversity, and taking into due account the importance of ecosystem services to the well-being of society;

Welcoming the work carried out by the Bureau and the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Budgetary matters in order to identify a viable system for funding the Convention;

Recalling the Reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 7 December to Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1964 (2011) on “The need to assess progress in the implementation of the Bern Convention”, in which the Committee of Ministers recognised the importance of efficient enforcement of environmental legislation, including the implementation of the Standing Committee’s recommendations and also efforts aimed at communication, education and public awareness, and asked the Standing Committee to continue its reflection on ways and means to ensure appropriate funding to the Convention, taking into account current budgetary constraints;

Taking note of the finalisation of the reform process at the Council of Europe, and welcoming the reorganisation of the Directorate of Democracy, which has resulted in a prioritisation of activities for a more efficient implementation, as well as the establishment of the Directorate General of Programmes, with the mandate of ensuring strategic programming, donor relations and resource mobilisation for the Council of Europe;

Welcoming the continued support of the Committee of Ministers, and the regular allocation of a financial contribution from the Council of Europe’s Ordinary Budget to the implementation of the Bern Convention;

Noting the adoption, by the Committee of Ministers of Resolution CM/Res(2013)7, concerning financial arrangements for the participation of non-member States in Council of Europe conventions, which resolves that any Contracting Party to a Council of Europe convention which is not a member of the Council of Europe shall be invited to make a financial contribution to the said convention, in view of the costs that these accessions entail for the Organisation, when the conventions concerned provide follow-up mechanisms;

Having regard to document T-PVS (2012) 8, presenting possible options for identifying a viable system of funding for the Convention;

Taking into consideration the views expressed by the Parties regarding ways and means to ensure that the Convention continues receiving adequate and predictable funding for the implementation of its Programme of Activities and the fulfilment of its mandate and objectives;

Noting that the majority of Parties whom addressed an opinion to the Standing Committee prefers to maintain a double funding system consisting of a regular contribution from the Ordinary Budget and

voluntary contributions, the latter being based – when expressly requested by the Party - on a suggested scale provided to the Party individually;

Equally noting the need to continue prioritising activities within the Programme of Activities, also according to their budgetary implications, by promoting a result oriented approach and a cost effective management of resources;

Confident that the financial climate will only improve and noting a slight improvement in the financial trends related to the Convention;

Decides:

1. To maintain the double funding system consisting in completing the provision regularly allocated by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (including those coming from the enforcement of CM/Res(2013)7, concerning financial arrangements for the participation of non-member States in Council of Europe conventions) to the Convention's Ordinary Budget with funds allocated to the Convention's Special Account by additional resources;
2. That these additional resources will come from contributions done by those Parties wishing to provide additional financial support to the implementation of the Programme of Activities or to sponsor one or more specific actions requiring extra-funds for their implementation;
3. That additional contributions will remain the will of Parties and will not follow a legal obligation;
4. That the Secretariat will advise – bilaterally and on an annual basis - those Parties who request a suggested scale of contribution, by providing them with an indicative amount;
5. That the provisions of the Ordinary Budget will be mainly devoted to Convention's core activities, in particularly its statutory meetings and its monitoring mechanisms, while additional activities will be (fully or partially) implemented as they receive additional contributions ;
6. That the expenses for the organisation of the meetings of the Convention's Group of Experts will be optimised by:
 - Asking some Parties (particularly the EU Member States, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Monaco, Norway and Switzerland) to check the possibility of regularly funding the participation of their own delegates;
 - Dispensing with simultaneous interpretation on an exceptional basis where circumstances permit;
 - Making excursions optional and thus excluded from the reimbursement of daily allowances;
 - Coordinating with other MEAs in order to organise, where appropriate, back-to-back meetings.

The Standing Committee further invites Parties to:

- a.* Consider the possibility of increasing the number and type of in-kind contributions, for instance by asking appointed delegates or experts from their States, to volunteer for the drafting and preparation of specific, technical background reports, moderate technical working groups – namely those organised under the Group of Experts, deliver keynote speeches;
- b.* Encourage delegates to maintain regular contacts with the representatives of their States in the Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe;
- c.* Encourage Ministries of Environment to uphold the Bern Convention at the national level, advocating before other Ministries for the added value of the Council of Europe work in the field of nature conservation;
- d.* Consider the possibility of temporarily seconding national, regional or local officials to the Bern Convention's Secretariat, according to the general rules laid down in Resolution CM/Res(2012)2 establishing Regulations for secondments to the Council of Europe.

Appendix 4



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 164 (2013) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2013, on the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild fauna and its natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species;

Recalling that Article 6 requires Parties to take the necessary and administrative measures to ensure the special protection of the wild fauna species specified in Appendix II, prohibiting in particular all forms of deliberate capture and keeping, and deliberate killing, as well as the possession and internal trade in these animals, alive or dead;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 5 (1986) on the prosecution of persons illegally catching, killing or trading in protected birds, which encouraged Parties to ensure the prosecution of persons illegally catching or killing birds or establishments commercialising live and/or protected birds;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 90 (2001) on the catching, killing or trading of protected birds in Cyprus, which encouraged Cyprus to properly implement the actions suggested in Recommendation No. 5 (1986);

Further recalling its Recommendation No. 155 (2011) on the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, which identified the main challenges related to the legal, biological and institutional aspects, and suggested a series of urgent measures for enhancing national and international co-operation, fostering adequate enforcement of existing legislation, and promoting dialogue between all relevant interest groups, noting traditions, cultures and values;

Reaffirming the Larnaca Declaration, adopted at the 1st European Conference on illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds (Larnaca, Cyprus, 6-8 July 2011), which called on responsible stakeholders, governments, local communities, law enforcement agencies, and nature conservation NGOs, including hunting associations, to unequivocally condemn all forms of illegal taking and trading in wild birds, to pledge a zero tolerance approach to illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds, and to adopt a full and proactive role in fighting against these illegal activities;

Bearing in mind the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity (document T-PVS (2007) 7 revised), adopted by the Standing Committee on 29 November 2007, and particularly its Principles No. 2 – Ensure that regulations are understandable and respected; No. 3 – Ensure that harvest is ecologically sustainable; No. 8 – Empower local stakeholders and hold them accountable; and No. 11 – Encourage co-operation between all stakeholders in management of harvested species, associated species and their habitats;

Regretting that illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds still represent important factors against the achievement and maintenance of favourable status of bird populations, negatively affecting those conservation actions undertaken by the States and resulting in adverse impacts on the conservation, legal hunting, agriculture and tourism sectors;

Welcoming the synergies created more particularly between the Bern Convention, the EU, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors' MoU) and encouraging the continuation of the on-going co-operation on the conservation of birds;

Having regard to the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity 2011-2020, and its Aichi targets, and welcoming the international partnership launched to support Parties to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 12¹;

Recalling the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (COM (2011) 244) and, in particular, its target 1 "Fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives";

Recalling that Contracting Parties to the AEWA shall ensure that any use of migratory waterbirds is sustainable for the species as well as for the ecological systems that support them, to develop and implement measures to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate illegal taking, prohibit the use of all indiscriminate means of taking and the use of all means capable of causing mass destruction, as well as local disappearances of, or serious disturbance to, populations of a species, and to prohibit the possession or utilisation of, and trade in, birds and eggs and any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of birds and their eggs, which have been taken in contravention [of any laid down prohibition];

Taking note of the statement addressed by the UNEP/CMS Technical workshop on minimizing poisoning of migratory birds to the Standing Committee, which raises concern regarding the still widespread use of poisons to kill protected species, and calls for a strengthened co-operation to enhance national and international actions to eliminate this damaging practice;

Welcoming the organisation of the 2nd Conference on Illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, which allowed to monitor progress of Parties in the implementation of the Standing Committee's recommendations in this field, and to highlight many areas of success as well as remaining gaps;

Further welcoming the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020, delivered by the participants to the 2nd Conference on Illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, as amended and validated by the Group of Experts on the conservation of birds, under the Bern Convention;

Acknowledging the widespread adoption of the zero tolerance approach, as well as progress at Parties' levels towards the monitoring of illegal activities and the adoption of a coordinated approach covering each stage of the chain of activities related to illegal killing, trapping or trade;

Still concerned by the gaps identified in the implementation of some of the targeted actions recommended in the legal biological, institutional and awareness fields;

Aware of the urgency of stepping up efforts towards the eradication of these illegal practices,

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites Observer States to:

1. Implement without delay the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 appended to this Recommendation;
2. Inform the Standing Committee on the progress made in the implementation of this Recommendation.

¹ Aichi Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

Appendix 1



TUNIS ACTION PLAN 2013-2020 FOR THE ERADICATION OF ILLEGAL KILLING, TRAPPING AND TRADE OF WILD BIRDS

Enforcement and Legal Aspects

Objective	Action(s)	Timeline(s)	Responsible body(ies)	Comment
Expected Result 1: National wildlife crime priorities are established				
Identification of national priorities	<p>Draft recommendation submitted to the Standing Committee on criteria* on how to set priorities</p> <p>*The criteria will not be mandatory but to be used as guidelines, allowing the Parties sufficient flexibility to adapt their priorities to the specific national circumstances of each state</p>	<p>2014 → 34th Standing Committee meeting</p> <p>- Possible criteria to be submitted by April 2014;</p> <p>- Select Group on IKTTB to meet in June/July 2014 for preparation, examination and validation of a draft recommendation;</p>	<p>- Parties to report on possible criteria at the request of the Secretariat</p> <p>- Group of Experts on Birds to prepare and agree on a draft recommendation on criteria for identification of priorities</p>	<p><i>The identification of national priorities could be linked to Article 12 of the EU Birds Directive concerning the general reporting obligations of the Member States and Commission</i></p> <p><i>At national level the key bodies will be government and police as represented by appropriate agency.</i></p> <p><i>The mechanisms will vary</i></p>

		<p>- Draft recommendation discussed for possible adoption at the 34th Standing Committee meeting (December 2014)</p>		<p><i>from country to country.</i></p> <p><i>Civil society involvement through consultation processes and especially with science on ecosystem and conservation impact essential.</i></p> <p><i>Recognising that wildlife is to be conserved for both its own intrinsic value and its socio-economic benefits.</i></p> <p><i>Recognising that the species comprising the ecosystem are the 'beneficiary' of wildlife conservation legislation, and thus that changes in human behaviour towards wildlife may have to occur. (cf. comments on 'tradition' below).</i></p>
	<p>Coordination with the Ornis Committee (EU level) with aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult with EU Member States - Obtain feedback - Report on EU problems and priorities 	<p>→ Consultation starts early October 2013</p>	<p>EU (European Commission) DG Env</p> <p>Member States being requested to cooperate by providing information on the establishment of priorities</p>	

	National lists of priorities identified submitted to the Standing Committee	2015 → 35 th Standing Committee meeting	Parties to identify the responsible authority for policing and conservation and to submit a national list to the Secretariat (by July 2015)	<i>INTERPOL may be able to assist Parties to identify the responsible authority for policing</i>
Objective	Action(s)	Timeline(s)	Responsible body(ies)	Comment
	Report on progress submitted to the Standing Committee	2016 → 36 th Standing Committee meeting	National focal points	
Identification of the areas of offending in all concerned Parties	Creation of national mechanisms for recording reports of wildlife cases to provide statistical evidence of the areas of offending, e.g. through adding categories of wildlife crime to those crimes already recorded nationally	2015 - 2016 → Establishment by the 35 th Standing Committee meeting (December 2015) → Operational in 2016; 1 st report on progress by the 36 th Standing Committee meeting (December 2016)	Ministries, police and investigative agencies	<i>INTERPOL through the National Central bureaus in the Member States may be able to assist with the collation of statistical evidence on illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds and bring attention of the police and environmental enforcement agencies of this crime</i>
Objective	Action(s)	Timeline(s)	Responsible body(ies)	Comment
Expected Result 2: Conservation Impact Statements (CIS) are generalised				
Improve the evidence base by promoting CISs and defining their content to include: identify the species	- Appointment of National focal points to assist investigators and prosecutors in	2015 → Implementation by the 34 th Standing Committee meeting (December 2014)	Bern Convention's focal points, environment ministries, national conservation agencies, and	<i>Examples of topics to be addressed: Investigators having access</i>

<p>conservation status eg, IUCN listing, relevant conservation measures being taken, the ecological damage the type of offending does (This could also be linked to the blackspots report, which is proposed to overlay flyway data and illegal activity)</p>	<p>accessing/locating expert knowledge providers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of sources of knowledge and compilation of national contact lists - Setting-up of an internet web portal giving guidance on CIS preparation and access to specialist law firms, advocates, expert witnesses, and independent specialists - Promotion of the exchange of knowledge and experience amongst the parties and capacity building 	<p>→ operational by 2015</p>	<p>police; bodies responsible for setting priorities</p> <p>INTERPOL could assist for the implementation of these activities which include training and capacity building of wildlife enforcement crime officers; Possibly look to EEA and ETC as well as existing institutions at country level for commitment towards the objective's achievement</p>	<p><i>at an early stage to experts, NGOs and other e.g. university institutions.</i></p> <p><i>Recognising experts' overriding duty to the court.</i></p> <p><i>Recognising role of expert to interpret significance of the crime and explain priorities and species' relevance, as well as conservation work in the field that is compromised.</i></p> <p><i>Recognising that lack of objective and independent science can undermine a prosecution.</i></p> <p><i>Recognising the value of "Forensic Partnership Funding" to pay for costly forensic evidence.</i></p> <p><i>Creation of a centrally operated DNA data base of wildlife crime, including Birds (with the assistance of INTERPOL)</i></p> <p><i>Recognising the importance of rules of evidence and the correct handling (continuity) of evidence (complementary to</i></p>
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				<p><i>INTERPOL forensic manual)</i></p> <p><i>Recognising the importance of providing for the training and information for police, judiciary and experts etc.</i></p>
Objective	Action(s)	Timeline(s)	Responsible body(ies)	Comment
<p>Investigators become familiar with the need to show the importance of the case in terms of its impact on conservation priorities and ecological damage</p>	<p>Ensure Investigators have available to them the legal rules governing the admissibility of expert evidence through early liaison with legal advisers/prosecutors</p> <p>- Encourage, or place obligation on, prosecutors to regard completion of CISs as good practice and to make inquiries to identify suitable experts</p>	<p>2015 → Implementation by the 34th Standing Committee meeting (December 2014) → Operational by 2015</p>	<p>Prosecutors</p>	<p><i>The body responsible for coordination should be the one in charge of prosecution. In some countries separate prosecutors for wildlife crimes do exist and could be taken as example. Since the prosecution of wildlife crime may vary greatly from one Party to another, the “one-size fits all” approach should be avoided</i></p> <p><i>INTERPOL would like to be included in these activities which include training and capacity building of wildlife enforcement crime officers, prosecutors and police</i></p>

Objective	Action(s)	Timeline(s)	Responsible body(ies)	Comment
Expected Result 3: Identification and standardisation of gravity factors				
Gravity Factors that may influence prosecution and sentencing decisions are identified and standardised	Development and agreement on a list of Gravity Factors taking into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conservation status of species - Impact risk for ecosystem - Legal obligation to protect under international legislation - Indiscriminate method used in committing offence Commercial motivation - Illegal gain/quantum - Prevalence of offence and need for deterrence - Professional duty on defendant to avoid committing offence - Scale of offending (number of specimens involved) - Intent and recklessness by defendant - History/recidivism 	2015 → Draft lists of gravity factors to be submitted by Parties by April 2014; → Select Group on IKTTB to meet in June/July 2014 for preparation, examination and validation of a draft recommendation; → Draft Recommendation discussed for possible adoption at the 34 th Standing Committee meeting (December 2014) → Operational by 2015	Institutions responsible for environment/bird protection in collaboration with public prosecution service (e.g., where appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Justice - Supreme Court) Co-operation from national science agency or authorities;	<i>Key issues:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Recognising that 'tradition' creates difficulty. (cf. comment on 'beneficiary' above)</i> - <i>Recognising the principle of judicial independence.</i> - <i>Recognising that gravity factors will carry different weight at country level and will change with time.</i> <p><i>INTERPOL would like to be included in these activities which include training and capacity building of wildlife enforcement crime officers, prosecutors and police</i></p>

Investigators and Judiciaries to be familiar with National wildlife crime priorities, the purpose of CISs and offence gravity factors, and Judiciaries be encouraged to use these to inform sentencing guidelines	Training of police and judiciary, both at national and international level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-going at EU level - To be implemented for non EU Parties by 2015 (e.g. in co-operation with the Supranational Environmental Justice Foundation and/or INTERPOL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The European Union through the European Commission for EU Member States; - The Parties to ensure co-operation in sending trainees regularly, and initiate similar activities at national level 	<i>INTERPOL would like to be included in these activities which include training and capacity building of wildlife enforcement crime officers, prosecutors and police</i>
Objective	Action(s)	Timeline(s)	Responsible body(ies)	Comment
Expected Result 4: Sentencing Guidelines are elaborated²				
Sentencing is more consistent and transparent through the establishment of Sentencing Guidelines enabling that serious wildlife crimes receive substantial sanctions, using the full range of sentencing options, thereby implementing 'zero tolerance' of wildlife crime through adopting the approach of 'proportionate intolerance' which is EHCR compliant and	Parties are invited to discuss sentencing with their judicial authorities e.g. : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sentencing Council - Supreme Court Judiciaries are encouraged	2015 → Invitation to Parties at the 33 rd Standing Committee meeting (December 2013) → Parties to report within 2 years (to the Group of Experts on Birds in June July 2015, and to the 35 th Standing Committee meeting, December 2015) Ongoing	Judiciary via Ministries of Justice; Ministries of environment to ensure co-operation at national level with the Ministries of Justice	<i>Recognising Judicial independence but duty to implement in full legislation passed by parliaments (including use of all sentencing options)</i> <i>Recognising the importance of increasing awareness of wildlife species crime in the legal mind</i> <i>Concentrating on the top level</i>

² Comments submitted by the delegation of Malta: The indicated objective is that of having a sentencing system that is more consistent and transparent through the establishment of sentencing guidelines. Whilst acknowledging that, it will be up to the Judiciary to bring about a just sentencing system whereby the sentence would be commensurate to the gravity of the crime, establishing sentencing guidelines so as to direct the Courts towards achieving this objective is not the function of the Judiciary but that of environmental agencies knowledgeable on the ecological impacts of bird crime working in close collaboration with the public prosecution service. The action indicated under this objective deals with discussing sentencing with the Parties' judicial authorities while the Responsible Body(ies) under the same objective are indicated as Judiciary via Ministries of Justice and Ministries of environment to ensure co-operation at national level with the Ministries of Justice. The action should therefore be amended to read: "Parties are invited to discuss and develop sentencing guidelines correlated to the gravity factors". The Responsible body(ies) should be indicated as "Institution responsible for environment/bird protection in collaboration with public prosecution service".

based on National Priorities and gravity factors	to use training provided nationally or by the EU (for EU Parties)			<i>[Priority+gravity→sanction]</i>
Objective	Action(s)	Timeline(s)	Responsible body(ies)	Comment
Mechanism for recording and reporting results of wildlife prosecutions is set up	Prosecutors or investigators undertake to provide short report of the facts and of offences proved and sentences imposed to a national focal point appointed for recording, the records of such to be made available to investigators and prosecutors	2015 → Operational by the 35 th Standing Committee meeting (2015)	Parties to identify a private body or NGO willing to undertake recording at national level, e.g. “TRAFFIC” at the EU level, INTERPOL Prosecuting body, wherever such body exists under national judicial systems	<i>INTERPOL Environmental crime programme has the experience needed to set up such an activity. The Wildlife teams are knowledgeable about the international and EU legislation and have the ability and skills required for this work.</i>
The implementation of the Enforcement and Legal Aspects of the Action Plan is monitored and evaluated	Monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up to the actions set in the AP	2020 → 2015 - 2020	Standing Committee to the Bern Convention	

Biological and Institutional Aspects

Objective	Action(s)	Timeline(s)	Responsible body(ies)	Comment
Expected Result 1: Biological and Institutional Aspects are fully taken into account in all the levels of enforcement chain				
<p>Species and population specific flyways are analysed to be overlaid</p> <p>Existing data on illegal activities affecting birds are analysed; black-spots based on standardised protocols for data collection and analytical methods are identified</p>	<p>Preparation and publication of Euro-African flyway atlas and description of blackspots</p> <p>Preparation and publication of a dedicated report</p>	<p>2016 → 36th Standing Committee meeting</p> <p>→ Standard protocols ready by the 34th Standing Committee meeting (December 2014)</p> <p>→ Existing data collected by the 35th Standing Committee meeting (December 2015)</p> <p>→ Analysis of Black-spots by the 36th Standing Committee meeting (December 2016)</p>	<p>Bern Convention Secretariat, in co-operation with CMS Secretariat to look for available funds and tenders</p> <p>Governmental agencies, scientific institutions and NGOs, coordinated by the Bern Convention's focal points</p>	<p><i>The Secretariat of the Convention has not the technical expertise for such a work. This task should be therefore outsourced (and funded)</i></p> <p><i>INTERPOL may be able to contribute to this activity</i></p>
<p>Knowledge on mortality within bird populations due to legal harvest (hunting) and illegal activities is established and allows for adaptive management of game species</p>	<p>Preparation of bag statistic reports and, where practically possible, estimates of mortality due to illegal killing trapping and trade</p>	<p>2015</p> <p>→ By the 35th Standing Committee meeting (December 2015)</p>	<p>Parties in co-operation with relevant Stakeholders</p>	

<p>Coordination of activities aimed at eradicating illegal killing and unsustainable use of birds in the Pan-Mediterranean area as a particularly critical region is improved</p>	<p>Setting-up of a Pan-Mediterranean working group to eradicate illegal killing, trapping and unsustainable use of birds (Task Force)</p>	<p>2014 → By the 34th Standing Committee meeting (December 2014)</p>	<p>National focal points to the Bern Convention, Secretariat, AEWA, Raptors MoU, CMS, African – Eurasian Landbirds AP, FACE, BirdLife International, Wetlands International</p>	<p><i>Clarify who should take the initiative of convening the group</i></p> <p><i>INTERPOL may be able to contribute to this activity</i></p>
<p>A Toolkit for prosecutors and judges is prepared with information on biological aspects of killing, trapping and illegal trade of birds and its international importance and its actual/potential impacts</p>	<p>Preparation of a dedicated toolkit or identification of an existing international toolkit to which a section on biological aspects would be added</p>	<p>2016 → to be submitted to the 36th Standing Committee meeting (December 2016)</p>	<p>Secretariat, Parties, NGOs</p>	<p><i>INTERPOL may be able to contribute to this activity</i></p>
<p>The implementation of the Biological and Institutional Aspects of the Action Plan is monitored and evaluated</p>	<p>Monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up to the actions set in the AP</p>	<p>2020 → 2015 - 2020</p>	<p>Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, every two years since 2015</p>	

Awareness Aspects

Objective	Action(s)	Timeline(s)	Responsible body(ies)	Comment
Expected Result 1: Positive and effective alliances with stakeholders are developed by establishing a mechanism to create an opportunity for national dialogue on IKTTB issues				
The challenges related to IKTTB issues are fully understood by all stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific evidence base is provided and knowledge gaps highlighted; - Stakeholder analysis provided; - Understanding of views, belief, values, attitudes, goals and positions carried out; - Analysis of key drivers and benefits; identification of ecological, economic and social impacts 	From now on	Focal point to liaise with appropriate government or Academic institution (Lead Agency)	<i>INTERPOL may be able to contribute to this activity</i>
An operational platform dedicated to awareness and education is developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of previous examples, sharing of best practices; - Consultation of experts in conflict resolution and other relevant groups as appropriate 	2016 → operational by the 36 th Standing Committee meeting (December 2016)	Focal point to liaise with appropriate government or Academic institution (Lead Agency)	

Outreach and stakeholders engagement is achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct communications with stakeholders - Public communications - make process and findings widely available and transparent 	<p>2016 → operational by the 36th Standing Committee meeting (December 2016)</p>	Focal point to liaise with appropriate government or Academic institution (Lead Agency)	
Modus Operandi, including establishing trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Independent facilitator; - Shared goals are identified; - Stakeholders' views, interests and positions are recognised; - Stakeholders are invited to share their viewpoints; - Rules of Engagement are established 	<p>2016 → operational by the 36th Standing Committee meeting (December 2016)</p>	All stakeholders	<i>INTERPOL may be able to contribute to this activity</i>
Walk the talk!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholders seek decisions by consensus (no votes); - Stakeholders issue shared communications and publicity 	From now on	All stakeholders	<i>Coordination committees at national level, gathering together NGOs and enforcement authorities could be established as platforms for the implementation of this objective</i>
Objective	Action(s)	Timeline(s)	Responsible body(ies)	Comment
Expected Result 2: Enforcement results are publicised				
Publicity is given to the level of sentences and other sanctions imposed (fines, penalties), including potential sanctions for	Statistics and reports are compiled and produced; good practices, stories and examples (including on the positive impact of	From now on	Focal points to liaise with justice departments, NGOs, National authorities	<i>This action should also tally with the ultimate objective of the Action Plan, i.e. to prevent bird crime: a proactive approach seeking</i>

associated illegal activities	legislation's enforcement) are collected and disseminated at national and international level			<i>the concerted effort of all stakeholders for the prevention (proactive) as opposed to the prosecution of crime (reactive).</i>
Media alliances are set up on different levels (national, local and specialist media	Create a network of press, radio, social media and TV with an interest in disseminated IKTTB information	From now on	All stakeholders	
Social cross compliance is encouraged	An open access database with effective case studies is created	From now on	All stakeholders, including bird keepers, angler organisations, hunting organisations, etc.	
Information on detecting and preventing illegal techniques is widespread	Development of a pan-European database, on the EU-TWIX example	From now on	Enforcement officers	<i>The Secretariat of the Convention has not the technical expertise for such a work. This task should be therefore outsourced (and funded) or taken up by volunteers</i> <i>INTERPOL may be able to take over this activity and work on collating all information form national sources</i>

Objective	Action(s)	Timeline(s)	Responsible body(ies)	Comment
Expected Result 3: Tailored messages are developed and used by key actors				
The main target groups are identified	Consultation round organised electronically	From now on	Relevant Stakeholders, NGOs and officials, under the coordination of the Secretariat	
Reasoning and motivation are established	Interviews by professionals using appropriate methods as advised by social scientists and psychologists (selected according to gender balance criteria) are carried out	2015 → finalised by the 35 th Standing Committee meeting (December 2015)	Focal point to liaise with universities and education institutions	
Appropriate and adapted messages are developed		2016 → finalised by the 36 th Standing Committee meeting (December 2016)	NGOs will work with professional copywriters, in co-operation with wildlife experts	
Tailored messages are disseminated to the wider public	Advertising companies disseminate the messages	2016 → operational by the 36 th Standing Committee meeting (December 2016)	NGOs	
Progress in the implementation of the expected result 3 awareness aspects of the AP is assessed and adjusted	Opinion Polls	Long term	NGOs and focal points	

Objective	Action(s)	Timeline(s)	Responsible body(ies)	Comment
<p>Expected Result 4: Positive biodiversity education is put in place to show people how nature and ecosystems work and how vital nature is for human life, to make them realise that Conservation is a serious issue</p>				
<p>Birds and Ecosystem knowledge, and importance of both to people and responsibility of people as ‘guardians of nature’, are integrated into school Curricula</p>	<p>The authorities responsible for education at national level receives information, training and knowledge on the issue</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<p>NGOs, Focal points to the Bern Convention (for the coordination with the Ministries of education), Ministries of education, companies that produce educational materials, Council of Europe Education department</p>	<p><i>This could be implemented for instance through Life+ projects (where appropriate) or as a contribution to the implementation of the European Strategy for the promotion of Education for sustainable development, prepared by the UNECE and UNESCO in the frame of the UN Decade for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)</i></p>
<p>Positive effects of stopping IKTTB on ecosystem are put forward (e.g. ecotourism, pest control, habitat for game species</p>	<p>Publications and events for stakeholders and for the general public</p>	<p>From now on</p>	<p>NGOs in alliance with other stakeholders, government bodies, press and the media</p>	
<p>Human beings are reconnected with nature</p>	<p>- Field trips and other educational activities are organised</p> <p>- New techniques are used to show the uniqueness of migratory birds</p>	<p>From now on</p>	<p>NGOs, governments, local tourism organisations</p>	

The implementation of the Awareness aspects of the Action Plan is monitored and evaluated	Monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up to the actions set in the AP	2020 → 2015 - 2020	Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, every two years since 2015	
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Appendix 5



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Recommendation No. 165 (2013) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2013, on the implementation of twenty-one new or revised action plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the convention,

Having regard to the aims of the convention, which are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that the Convention gives particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species;

Recalling that Article 3.1 of the Convention requires Parties to take the necessary steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild flora, wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4.1 of the Convention requires Parties to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Bearing in mind the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adopted by the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and more particularly Aichi Biodiversity Target 12, aiming at preventing the extinction of known threatened species and improving their conservation status by 2020;

Recalling the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (COM (2011) 244), aiming at halting the loss of biodiversity and improve the state of Europe's species, habitats, ecosystems and the services they provide, and bearing in mind, its target 1, aiming at the full implementation by Member States of the Birds and Habitats Directives;

Regretting the continuous and rapid decline of bird species populations in Europe;

Desirous to halt this loss;

Aware that the design and implementation of recovery plans may be a useful tool to redress the situation of European globally threatened birds and recalling in this context its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the drafting and implementation of action plans of wild fauna species;

Recalling its Recommendations No. 48 (1996) on the conservation of European globally threatened birds; No. 60 (1997) on the implementation of the actions plans for globally threatened birds in Europe; No. 62 (1997) on the conservation of regionally threatened birds in the Macaronesian and Mediterranean regions; No. 75 (1999) on the implementation of new action plans for globally threatened birds in Europe; No. 88 (2001) on the implementation of five new Action Plans for globally threatened birds in Europe; No. 92 (2002) on sixteen new Action Plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area; and No. 103 (2003) on five new Action Plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area; No. 121 (2006) on the

implementation of six new action plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area; and No. 156 (2011) on the implementation of an Action Plan for the conservation of the White-tailed Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) along the Danube;

Referring to document T-PVS (2013) 14, prepared by BirdLife International, which provides a list of the Species Recovery Plans elaborated or updated since 2006, which the Standing Committee has not endorsed yet;

Noting that the following Species Recovery Plans do target species or sub-species of concern for the Convention: Eurasian Spoonbil (*Platalea leucorodia*), Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*), Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), Black-tailed Godwith (*Limosa limosa*), European Roller (*Coracias garrulous*), Dupont's Lark (*Chersophilus duponti*), Semi-collared Flycatcher (*Ficedula semitorquata*), Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*), Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*);

Bearing in mind that a number of Species Action Plans endorsed by the Standing Committee before 2006 have been reviewed and updated, namely those concerning the following species: Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*), Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*), Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*), Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*), Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*), Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*), Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*), Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*), Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*), Azores Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula murina*);

Recalling that while International Species Recovery Plans are mainly produced by the European Union, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds (AEWA), the preparation and implementation of recovery plans at national level is the responsibility of the Parties, arising from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),

Recommends that Contracting Parties and observer States to the Convention:

1. Draw up and/or review and implement national species recovery plans or other relevant measures, as appropriate, on the species listed in Appendices 1 and 2 to this Recommendation, taking into account the relevant international action plans mentioned in there;
2. Take into account the revised Species Action Plans while implementing measures dealing with the species mentioned in Appendix 3 to this Recommendation;
3. Take note of the International Species Management Plan drawn up by the AEWA for the Svalbard's population of the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*);
4. Keep the Standing Committee informed on the measures taken for the implementation of this Recommendation.

Appendix 1

New Species Recovery Plan covering species listed in Appendix II (elaborated in 2006 – 2013)

Species: Eurasian Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>)	
Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC) (2012) European Red List status: SPEC 2 , Rare (R) (2004)	
The Eurasian Spoonbill is a large wading bird, with long neck and legs. The bill is also long and spatulate. The species has a large discontinuous breeding range extending from the Netherlands to China, with wintering populations in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The overall population trend is uncertain, as some populations are decreasing, while others are increasing or stable.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	No Species action plan
CMS - AEWa	International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Eurasian Spoonbill published in 2008 (AEWA technical series no 35)
	Weblink: http://www.unep-awea.org/publications/ssap/eurasian_spoonbill/index.htm
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: endorsement of the 2008 AEWa SSAP	

Species: Red-footed Falcon (<i>Falco vespertinus</i>)	
Global Red List status: Near threatened (NT) (2012) European Red List status: SPEC 3 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
The Red-footed Falcon is a small, long-winged bird of prey. The male and female have a different plumage. The Red-footed Falcon breeds in eastern Europe and west, central and north-central Asia. It winters in southern Africa, from South Africa northwards to southern Kenya. This species is listed as Near Threatened because it is experiencing a moderately rapid population decline, owing to habitat loss and degradation.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species Action plan published in 2010 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/falco_vespertinus.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: endorsement of the 2010 EU SAP	

Species: European Roller (<i>Coracias garrulus</i>)	
Global Red List status: Near threatened (NT) (2012) European Red List status: SPEC 2 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
The European Roller is a medium sized bird; it is mainly blue with an orange-brown back. The European Roller breeds from Morocco, south-west and south-central Europe and Asia Minor east through north-west Iran to south-west Siberia (Russia). The species overwinters in two distinct regions of Africa, from Senegal east to Cameroon and from Ethiopia west to Congo and south to South Africa. This species has apparently undergone moderately rapid declines across its global range and it is consequently considered Near Threatened. Declines have been most pronounced in northern populations.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 2008 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/coracias_garrulus_garrulus.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: endorsement of the 2008 EU SAP	

Species: Dupont's Lark (<i>Chersophilus duponti</i>)	
Global Red List status: Near threatened (NT) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 3, Depleted (H) (2004)	
Dupont's Lark is small songbird, with a long neck, long legs and a fine slightly curved bill. The species does not migrate. <i>Chersophilus duponti</i> has two subspecies: the nominate is found in Spain, Morocco and north Algeria; <i>margaritae</i> is found in Algeria, south-east Tunisia, northern Libya and coastal west Egypt. It is sparsely distributed and uncommon in most areas of its relatively small and fragmented range. This species has not been well studied across much of its range, but moderately rapid declines are known to have occurred in some areas and are suspected elsewhere.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 2008 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/chersophilus_duponti.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: endorsement of the 2008 EU SAP	

Species: Semi-collared Flycatcher (<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>)	
Global Red List status: Near threatened (NT) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 2 Declining (D) (2004)	
The Semicollared Flycatcher is a small passerine bird. The breeding male is mainly black above and white below, with a white half-collar. Females have the black replaced by pale brown. The Semi-collared Flycatcher breeds in south-east Europe: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, FYR Macedonia, Russia and Turkey, as well as in north-eastern Iran. It winters in a comparatively small region of East Africa, from Sudan and South Sudan through western Kenya, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi to Tanzania. This poorly-studied migratory species is estimated to be undergoing a moderately rapid population decline, probably as a result of habitat loss on its breeding grounds.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species Action plan published in 2010 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/ficedula_semitorquata.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: endorsement of the 2010 EU SAP	

Species: Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>)	
Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 3W , Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
The Tundra Swan is a small Holarctic swan, with Bewick's Swan occurring in the Palaearctic. This species has an extremely large range, breeding in the Arctic. This species is fully migratory and travels on a narrow front via specific routes using well-known stop-over sites between its Arctic breeding and temperate wintering grounds. The overall population trend is uncertain, as some populations are decreasing, while others are increasing, stable or have unknown trends.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	No Species action plan
AEWA	International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the the Bewicks' Swan (AEWA technical series no 44) Weblink: http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/pdf/stc7_12_draft_ssap_bewicks_swan.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: endorsement of the 2012 AEWA SSAP	

Appendix 2

New Species Recovery Plan covering species falling under the protection of Appendix III (elaborated in 2006 – 2013)

Species: Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>)	
Global Red List status: Near threatened (NT) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 2 , declining (D) (2004)	
The Red Kite is a medium-large bird of prey, endemic to the Western Palearctic. It is an elegant rufous colored bird, soaring on long wings, with a long forked tail, twisting as it changes direction. It breeds from Spain and Portugal east through central Europe to Ukraine, north to southern Sweden, Latvia and the UK, and south to southern Italy. Populations winter within the western breeding range, and formerly in isolated patches south and east to eastern Turkey. This species is listed as Near Threatened because it is experiencing a moderately rapid population decline, owing mostly to poisoning from pesticides and persecution, and changes in land-use amongst other threats. Despite the current rapid declines in southern Europe, it increases in northern range states.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 2010 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/milvus_milvus.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: endorsement of the 2010 EU SAP	

Species: Egyptian Vulture (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>)	
Global Red List status: Endangered (EN) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 3 Endangered (EN) (2004)	
The Egyptian Vulture is a small vulture with a typical contrasting black and white underwing pattern and wedge-shaped tail. It is widely distributed from southwestern Europe and Africa to India. The European birds winter throughout the Sahel region of Africa. This long-lived species qualifies as Endangered owing to a recent and extremely rapid population decline in India, combined with severe long-term declines in Europe (>50% over the last three generations [42 years]) and West Africa, plus ongoing declines through much of the rest of its African range.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Single species Action plan published in 2008 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/neophron_percnopterus.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: endorsement of the 2008 EU SAP	

Species: Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)	
Global Red List status: Near threatened (NT) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 2 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
Large wader, with long bill on a relatively small head, long neck and long legs. <i>Limosa limosa</i> has a large discontinuous breeding range extending from Iceland to the Russian far east, with wintering populations in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Australasia. This species is highly gregarious and migrates on a broad front, making long-distance flights, often overland between relatively few staging and wintering areas. The available information suggests that the global population has probably declined by between 14% and 33% over the past 15 years (=3 generations).	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex II/B)	Management plan published in 2007 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/hunting/docs/black_tail_d_godwit.pdf

CMS - AEWA	International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Black-tailed Godwit published in 2008 (AEWA technical series no 37) Weblink: http://www.unep-awea.org/publications/ssap/bt_godwit/black-tailed_godwit_internet.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: endorsement of the 2008, AEWA SSAP	

Species: Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)	
Global Red List status: Least concern (LC) (2012) European Red List status: not assessed (2004)	
The Greater White-fronted Goose is a medium sized goose species. The species is divided into four subspecies The Greenland White-fronted Goose breeds in western Greenland and winters in Ireland and western Scotland.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	No Species Action Plan
AEWA	International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Greenland White-fronted Goose published in 2009 (AEWA technical series no 45) Weblink: http://www.unep-awea.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/pdf/stc7_13_draft_ssap_gwgs.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): not endorsed by the convention	
Recommendation: endorsement of the 2012 AEWA SSAP	

Appendix 3

Species Action Plans revised after the endorsement of the Standing Committee (2006-2013)

Species: Balearic Shearwater (<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>)	
Global Red List status: Critical Endangered (CR) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Critical (CR) (2004)	
The Balearic Shearwater is a medium-sized shearwater, occurring at sea. The species breeds in the Balearic Islands, Spain. In winter, it occurs in the Balearic Sea and off the north-east Spanish coast with most of the population traditionally concentrated between Valencia and Catalonia from November to February, although recent data suggest that some birds remain in the Atlantic. This species has a tiny breeding range and a small population which is undergoing an extremely rapid population decline owing to a number of threats, in particular predation at breeding colonies by introduced mammals and at-sea mortality as a result of fisheries by-catch.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species Action Plan published in 1996 and revised in 2011 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/puffinus_puffinus_mauretanicus.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 2002 (92)	
Recommendation: endorsement of the revised 2011 EU SAP	

Species: Lesser White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser erythropus</i>)	
Global Red List status: Vulnerable (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Endangered (2004)	
The Lesser White-fronted Goose is a small goose closely related to the larger Greater White-fronted Goose. The Fennoscandinavian population which breeds in the Nordic countries (Norway, Finland, Sweden) and the Kola Peninsula in Russia. The Fennoscandinavian and west Asian breeders winter around the Black and Caspian Seas, in Azerbaijan, the Evros Delta between Greece and Turkey, Iraq and possibly Iran. This species is listed as Vulnerable because it has suffered a rapid population reduction in its key breeding population in Russia, and equivalent declines are predicted to continue. The Fennoscandinavian population has undergone a severe historical decline, and has not yet recovered.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species Action Plan published in 1996 and revised in 2008. Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/anse_r_erythropus.pdf
AEWA	International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (Western Palearctic Population), published in October 2008 (AEWA technical series no 36) Weblink: http://www.unep-awea.org/activities/working_groups/lwfg/lwfg_ssap_130109.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996 (48)	
Recommendation: endorsement of the 2008 AEWA SSAP	

Species: Red-breasted Goose (<i>Branta ruficollis</i>)	
Global Red List status: Endangered (EN) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
Unmistakable red, black and white small goose species. Red-breasted Goose breeds on the Taimyr Gydan and Yamal peninsulas, Russia. In winter, it congregates at the western Black Sea coast in Bulgaria, Romania, and in the coastal area in Ukraine. Small numbers also winter in Azerbaijan. This species has a moderately small population which appears to have declined rapidly over a short time period.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 1996 and revised in 2010 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/branta_ruficollis.pdf
AEWA	International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Red-breasted Goose published in 2010 (AEWA technical series no 46) Weblink: http://www.unep-aeewa.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/pdf/stc7_14_draft_ssap_rbg.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996	
Recommendation: endorsement of the revised 2012 EU-AEWA SAP	

Species: Marbled Teal (<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>)	
Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)(Western Mediterranean population)	
The Marbled Teal is a small, grey-brown dabbling duck. Brownish body flecked with creamy-brown. This species has a fragmented distribution in the western Mediterranean (Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, wintering in north and sub-Saharan West Africa), the eastern Mediterranean (Turkey, Israel, Jordan, Syria, wintering south to Egypt) and western and southern Asia. This species appears to have suffered a rapid population decline, evidenced in its core wintering range, as a result of widespread and extensive habitat destruction. The western Mediterranean population has suffered a long-term decline and widespread loss of habitat.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 1996 and revised in 2008 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/marmaronetta_angustirostris.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996	
Recommendation: endorsement of the revised 2008 EU SAP	

Species: Spanish Imperial Eagle (<i>Aquila adalberti</i>)	
Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Endangered (EN) (2004)	
The Spanish Imperial Eagle is a large, dark eagle. Generally dark brownish-black with prominent white "shoulders" on forewing and scapulars. The species breeds in Spain in the Sierras of Guadarrama and Gredos, the plains of the Tajo and Tiétar rivers, the central hills of Extremadura, Montes de Toledo, the Alcuía valley, Sierra Morena and the Guadalquivir marshes, with occasional nesting in Salamanca and Málaga. It does not migrate. This species qualifies as Vulnerable because it has a very small population, which is dependent on ongoing intensive management measures to mitigate the impact of threats such as poisoning, electrocution and insufficient food availability.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 1996 and revised in 2008 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/aquila_adalberti.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996	
Recommendation: endorsement of the revised 2008 EU SAP	

Species: Lesser Kestrel (<i>Falco naumanni</i>)	
Global Red List status: Least Concern (LC) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Depleted (H) (2004)	
<p>The Lesser Kestrel is a small falcon. Male has grey head, uniform rusty upperparts, buff underparts with black spots. Grey band from carpal to tertials and black flight feathers. Grey tail with black subterminal band. The species breeds in southwestern and southern Europe, North Africa, Middle East and from Central Asia to Mongolia and China. Birds winter in southern Spain, southern Turkey, Malta and across much of Africa, particularly South Africa. This species underwent rapid declines in western Europe, equivalent to c.46% in each decade since 1950, on its wintering grounds in South Africa, equivalent to c.25% in each decade since 1971, and possibly in parts of its Asian range; however, recent evidence indicates a stable or slightly positive population trend overall during the last three generations. Consequently it has been downlisted from Vulnerable.</p>	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 1996 and revised in 2011 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/falco_naumanni.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996 (48)	
Recommendation: endorsement of the revised 2011 EU SAP	

Species: Little Bustard (<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>)	
Global Red List status: Near Threatened (NT) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
<p>The Little Bustard is a large bird in the bustard family. The breeding male is brown above and white below, with a grey head and a black neck bordered above and below by white. The Little Bustard has two widely separated breeding populations. In its eastern range it occurs in Russia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, north-west China, northern Iran and Turkey. Its western range covers Spain and Portugal, with smaller populations in Italy, France and Morocco. Eastern populations winter from Turkey and the Caucasus to Iran, and erratically elsewhere in south Asia, with Azerbaijan holding the main wintering quarters. Western populations winter in the Mediterranean zone, with the Iberian peninsula holding the most important wintering population. This species is listed as Near Threatened because it is probably experiencing a moderately rapid overall population decline, driven by rapid declines in the west of its range, owing mainly to habitat loss and degradation, as well as low-level hunting pressure.</p>	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 1999 and revised in 2011 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/tetrax_tetrax.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 2001 (88)	
Recommendation: endorsement of the revised 2011 EU SAP	

Species: Great Bustard (<i>Otis tarda</i>)	
Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
Large, grey-and-brown bustard. Grey head and neck, brown barred black above. White underparts with reddish-brown breast-band, developing with age in males. The Great Bustard breeds in Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia and Montenegro, Romania, Turkey, Iran, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and China. Most populations are partially migratory. This species has suffered rapid population reductions across most of its range owing to the loss, degradation and fragmentation of its habitat, as well as hunting. Although populations in its Iberian stronghold have stabilised and possibly increased, hunting in Central Asia results in high rates of adult mortality, and land-use changes in eastern Europe, Russia and central Asia may have a significant impact on this species's population and the extent of its remaining habitat, such that it is likely to continue declining at a rapid rate over the next three generations.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 1996 and revised in 2010 Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/otis_tarda.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996 (48)	
Recommendation: endorsement of the revised 2010 EU SAP	

Species: Sociable Lapwing (<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>)	
Global Red List status: Critical Endangered (CR) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Critical Endangered (CR) (2004)	
Strikingly patterned plover. Adult greyish with black and chestnut belly. White supercilium and black crown and eye-stripe. The Sociable Lapwing breeds in northern and central Kazakhstan and south-central Russia, migrating to key wintering sites in Eritrea, Sudan and north-west India. This species is listed as Critically Endangered because its population has undergone a very rapid reduction, for reasons that are poorly understood; this decline is projected to continue and increase in the future.	
International protection	
AEWA	International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Sociable Lapwing published in 2011 (AEWA technical series no 47) Weblink: http://www.unep-awea.org/meetings/en/stc_meetings/stc7docs/pdf/stc7_15_draft_ssap_sociable_lapwing.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 2003 (103).	
Recommendation: endorsement of the 2012 AEWA SSAP	

Species: Aquatic Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>)	
Global Red List status: Vulnerable (VU) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Vulnerable (VU) (2004)	
The Aquatic Warbler is a small, heavily streaked, buff-and-black passerine. It has a pale coronal stripe with black border. The species breeds across a highly fragmented range at fewer than 50 regular breeding sites in Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Germany and Lithuania. It winters in the Sahelian belt of sub-Saharan West Africa in Senegal and in in south-west Mauritania and Mali. The species probably declined rapidly until the late 1990s, as a result of the destruction of its habitat, at a rate equivalent to 40% in 10 years. It therefore qualifies as Vulnerable. The decline in the central-European core population has recently been stopped owing to intensive management and conservation projects, but the population is still widely conservation-dependent.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species Action Plan revised in 2008 (first plan published in 1996) Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/acrocephalus_paludicola.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996 (48)	
Recommendation: endorsement of the revised 2008 EU SAP	

Species: Azores Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula murina</i>)	
Global Red List status: Endangered (EN) (2012)	
European Red List status: SPEC 1 Endangered (EN) (2004)	
This songbird is a medium-sized, plump, short-winged, long-tailed, dull coloured finch. Black cap and facial area, tail and wings. The Azores Bullfinch is endemic to the Azores, Portugal, where it is confined to the east of the island of São Miguel. This species is listed as Endangered as it occurs at only one locality and has a very small range, within which the quality of habitat is thought to be decreasing due the spread of invasive plant species.	
International protection	
European Union (listed on annex I)	Species action plan published in 1996 and revised in 2010
	Weblink: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/pyrrhula_murina.pdf
Status Bern Convention (May 2013): previous plan endorsed by the convention in 1996 (48)	
Recommendation: endorsement of the revised 2010 EU SAP	

Appendix 6

Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

**Recommendation No. 166 (2013) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2013,
on the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species**

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aim of the Convention which is notably to ensure the conservation of wild flora and fauna, by giving particular attention to species, including migratory species, which are threatened with extinction and vulnerable;

Recalling that under Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 99 (2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 128 (2007) on the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity;

Having regard to the EU Sustainable Hunting Initiative;

Recalling Decision VI/23 of the 6th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, and the definitions used in that text;

Recalling that the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 headline Aichi targets for 2020, in particular Target 9 devoted to invasive alien species (IAS): “By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment”;

Welcoming the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, endorsed by the Council of the European Union in June 2011, and in particular its Target 5, calling on Member States to combat IAS so that by 2020 IAS and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new IAS;

Welcoming the European Commission’s proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species and looking forward to swift adoption of it;

Noting the need to co-operate with all the actors involved in hunting activities in the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of IAS into the territory of the Convention;

Referring to the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species [document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 20],

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. Take the European Code of Conduct mentioned above into account while drawing up other relevant codes - or where appropriate - draw up national codes of conduct on hunting and IAS,
2. Collaborate as appropriate with the actors involved in hunting activities in implementing and helping disseminate good practices and codes of conduct aimed at preventing and managing of introduction, release and spread of invasive alien species,
3. Keep the Standing Committee informed of measures taken to implement this recommendation;

Invites Observer States to take note of this recommendation and implement it as appropriate.

Appendix 7



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 167 (2013) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2013, on the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aim of the Convention which is notably to ensure the conservation of wild flora and fauna, by giving particular attention to species, including migratory species, which are threatened with extinction and vulnerable;

Recalling that under Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling Decision VI/23 of the 6th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, and the definitions used in that text, as well as the conservation guidelines of the Africa-Eurasian Migratory Waterfowl Agreement;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 99 (2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species;

Recalling that the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 headline Aichi targets for 2020, in particular Target 9 devoted to invasive alien species (IAS): “By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment”;

Welcoming the Commission’s proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species and looking forward to its swift adoption;

Welcoming the efforts of States to build sound ecological networks in the framework of the Convention and the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds, in particular the Emerald Network and the Natura 2000 Network;

Conscious that protected areas are indeed very appropriate places where to study, control and contain the spread of invasive alien species;

Referring to the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species [document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 22],

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. where necessary, draw up national strategies to control invasive alien species in protected areas, in particular where endangered native flora and/or fauna may be at risk from such alien species; take into

account in that context of the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species mentioned above,

2. instruct managers of protected areas and other appropriate conservation staff to collaborate in the tasks involved in communication and awareness raising, monitoring, prevention and management of invasive alien species, making sure that management plans take due account of the need to deal with invasive alien species in protected areas,
3. consult, when possible and as appropriate, the actors involved in management and conservation of protected areas, as well as scientific bodies, on the identification of priority IAS in protected areas and in the preparation and the implementation of mandatory measures to tackle these priority IAS in protected areas,
4. keep the Standing Committee informed of measures taken to implement this recommendation;

Invites Observer States to take note of this recommendation and implement it as appropriate.

Appendix 8



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Revised Criteria for assessing the National Lists of proposed Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs) at biogeographical level and procedure for examining and approving Emerald candidate sites, adopted on 6 December 2013 by the Standing Committee

1. BACKGROUND

The creation of the Emerald Network of areas of special conservation interest was agreed by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in 1989, through the adoption of Recommendation No.16 (1989) on the Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ACSI). The Recommendation advocates Contracting Parties to take, either by legislation or otherwise, steps to designate areas of special conservation interest to ensure that necessary and appropriate conservation measures are taken for each area situated within their territory or under their responsibility.

Article 4 of the Bern Convention is the most relevant article, as it states that Contracting Parties “shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats”.

Nonetheless, the real implementation of the Emerald Network only started in 1998, through the adoption by the Standing Committee of Resolution No. 3 (1996) concerning the setting up of a pan-European Ecological Network, and Resolution No. 5 (1998), concerning the rules for the Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (Emerald Network).

Resolution No. 3 (1996) encourages "Contracting Parties and observer states to designate ASCIs", thus inviting all the European Union states, European states which are not members of the European Union and some African states to join the Emerald Network. Participation in the Emerald Network is therefore optional, as Contracting Parties and Observers States benefit from the “soft law” approach characteristic of Council of Europe recommendations and resolutions. However, it is important to note that the obligations on the Contracting Parties to protect natural habitats are rigorous requirements clearly set out in the Convention and forming part of binding international law.

The European Union, as such, is a Contracting Party to the Bern Convention. Implementation of the Bern Convention by EU member states is achieved mainly through full compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives and the requirements of the Bern Convention with regard to habitats are met by designating sites for the Natura 2000 Network. According to Resolution No. 5 (1998) of the Bern Convention Standing Committee on rules applying to the network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest, “*for Contracting Parties which are Member States of the European Union, Emerald Network sites are those of the Natura 2000*”. The provisions of the Birds and Habitats Directives are thus the only procedures that apply to these countries. As indicated both in the EU Habitats Directive and in the Bern Convention, the ultimate goal for the creation of such a sites network is the “long term survival and maintenance of a favourable conservation status of the species and habitats of European Interest”.

In order to ensure a full complementarity and consistency between the EU Natura 2000 and the Emerald networks, the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks (GoEPAEN) recommended that any evaluation of the proposed Emerald sites should be based on the same rules and procedures as developed for Natura 2000, i.e using a biogeographic approach. At the same time, in full recognition of the resources and time needed to implement such a process, the GoEPAEN called for a simplified approach without losing the essence of the evaluation.

In 2006, a first attempt was made to agree criteria for a simplified biogeographic approach to the evaluation of Emerald sites as described in document T-PVS/Emerald (2007) 03, on the basis of the criteria adopted by the Habitats Committee in 1997 (Hab. 97/2 rev. 4 18/11/97). Meanwhile, the EU accumulated experience within the different Biogeographical seminars and the procedure was gradually amended accordingly. The present paper aims at revising document T-PVS/Emerald (2007) 03, taking into account recent developments in the implementation of the Natura 2000 network and proposing a process to be applied in the preparation of the Pan-European list of ASCIs under the Bern Convention. It is relevant to the implementation of phases II and III of the Emerald process as described in T-PVS/Emerald (2010) 5.

Although the constitution of Emerald Network is still ongoing, three different stages or “Phases” of implementation can be identified:

Phase I: Participating countries assess their natural resources and identify species and habitats to be protected according to the relevant resolutions of the Bern Convention. They subsequently select potential sites which are suitable for ensuring the long-term survival of the “Emerald” species and habitats, and they send a database containing scientific information on the proposed sites to the Bern Convention’s Secretariat.

Phase II: An evaluation of the efficiency of the proposed sites which has to be done on a species by species and habitat by habitat base. Ideally the evaluation would only start if a complete inventory of proposed sites exists for a certain area. Realistically, this would mean that over 80 % of the finally proposed sites would already be available for the evaluation. This exercise is to be conducted in co-operation with the European Environment Agency.

Once the scientific value of the proposed sites is assessed, the candidate sites will be submitted to the Standing Committee and will eventually be approved so to formally integrate the Emerald Network. For EU member states an approved Natura 2000 Network of sites will automatically fulfil the parties’ obligations towards the Bern Convention and the Emerald Network.

Phase III: National designation of the adopted ASCI’s and implementation of management, reporting and monitoring measures, under the responsibility of national authorities.

Sites proposed as Emerald sites by individual countries will be eligible to become ASCIs only if they contribute to the conservation of habitat types listed in Resolution No. 4 (1996) and species listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998) of the Bern Convention and endorsed by the Standing Committee of the Convention.

ASCI selection is guided by Recommendation No. 16 (1989), paragraph 1, which describes six general conditions; all ASCIs should fulfil at least one:

- a) It contributes substantially to the survival of threatened species, endemic species, or any species listed in Appendices I and II of the convention;
- b) It supports significant numbers of species in an area of high species diversity or supports important populations of one or more species;
- c) It contains an important and/or representative sample of endangered habitat types;
- d) It contains an outstanding example of a particular habitat type or a mosaic of different habitat types;
- e) It represents an important area for one or more migratory species;

f) It otherwise contributes substantially to the achievement of the objectives of the convention;

Following the principles described in Annex III of the Habitats Directive for setting up Natura 2000 sites under that Directive, two distinct stages in the setting up of the Emerald network can be identified:

- 1) An evaluation of the sufficiency of proposed ASCIs species by species and habitat by habitat (equivalent to Annex III, stage 1 of the Habitats Directive); see section 2;
- 2) An evaluation of the proposed ASCIs site by site at the biogeographical level (equivalent to Annex III, stage 2 of the Habitats Directive), followed by approval by the GoEPAEN and subsequently adoption at the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention; see section 3.

The Areas of Special Conservation Interest – like the Natura 2000 sites – are regarded as core areas for the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN). As such, they represent key components of the Pan-European Network. The introduction of a vast natural infrastructure, of the kind ultimately envisaged by the Pan-European Ecological Network, will make the areas identified for the Emerald Network even more important and will focus attention on their possible linkage with other protected areas. The state of ecological connectivity of a concerned ASCI with other natural areas should be taken into account when assessing its compliances to the criteria of the Recommendation No. 16 (1989). A degree of policy convergence between the various networks concerned (PEEN, Natura 2000 and Emerald) should therefore be encouraged.

2. EVALUATION OF SUFFICIENCY OF PROPOSED ASCIS FOR SPECIES AND HABITATS

2.1 Overall description of the procedure

The evaluation of Emerald databases at a national level should be viewed as a cycle consisting of the following steps:

- (1) Submission of proposals in the form of a database by the National Authorities to the Bern Convention Secretariat, using the Common Data Repository of the European Environment Agency;
- (2) Quality check of the database by the Council of Europe Secretariat, followed by correction of incompleteness and errors by parties;
- (3) Nomination as official candidate sites by the Bern Convention Standing Committee
- (4) Preliminary evaluation by EEA-ETC/BD of sufficiency of the proposed list of ASCIs (feature/ country/ biogeographical region);
- (5) Scientific discussion at the regional biogeographical seminar and assessments of sufficiency,
- (6) If necessary, proposal of additional Emerald Sites and updating the database by national authorities;
- (7) Submission of revised database;
- (8) Submission of the final sitelist to the GoEPAEN for discussion;
- (9) Submission to the Bern Convention Standing Committee for adoption.

The construction of the Emerald databases at a national level should be viewed as a cycle consisting of the first seven steps of the overall procedure.

Evaluation of the Emerald network is viewed as an iterative process. Conclusions on the sufficiency of national ASCI proposals will result in the need for new proposed Emerald sites or extension of existing sites if the conclusions are found unsatisfactory. An increase in site numbers with time is expected due to improving scientific knowledge and changes in nature. In all cases, re-submitted ASCI proposals will be re-evaluated providing updated conclusions.

2.2 Emerald database submission, completeness and quality

Databases should be uploaded to the appropriate folder in the EEA data centre together with an official letter by national authorities noting the delivery of an official database. Second and subsequent deliveries should also include a description of the changes between versions.

Emerald databases should be prepared according to the instructions given in the Emerald Software User Manual (T-PVS/Emerald (2003) 2). Complete databases are essential and for the evaluation process including discussions at the biogeographical seminars. All species of Resolution No. 6 (1998) and of Resolution No. 4 (1996) of the Bern Convention regularly present on a site should be listed and all relevant data-fields completed. Quantitative data on species populations and habitat cover areas at sites should be provided whenever possible. However, species which have been recorded occasionally but which are not regularly occurring (e.g. vagrants) should not be included. It is difficult to give a general rule on listing species for which only historical records exist, for many small, poorly known species, even old records may still be valid (e.g. for bryophytes or small molluscs such as *Vertigo* spp.) unless recent survey shows the species is no longer present or if the habitat has changed and is no longer suitable.

Before evaluation for network sufficiency, submitted databases and associated spatial data will be checked for completeness and quality. After country authorities have received an assessment of database quality, identified gaps and errors should be corrected as quickly as possible and the updated database should be uploaded again to the Common Data Repository of the EEA.

2.3 Preliminary evaluation

Preliminary evaluation of sufficiency of national ASCI proposals will be essentially a scientific preparation for the discussions at the biogeographical seminar. It will be carried out by an independent scientific institution (EEA – ETC/BD). Preliminary evaluation will examine the latest submitted database by the party (but not later than 90 days before the planned biogeographical seminar) and take into account relevant available scientific information.

Establishment of the Reference lists of species and habitats

Prior to evaluation, a preliminary Reference List of species and habitats of Bern Convention Resolution No. 4 (1996) and Resolution No. 6 (1998) regularly present in each country per biogeographical region will be prepared based on current scientific information, in order to show for which features which country is obliged to designate ASCIs. The reference lists should not be considered as checklists of species and habitats occurring in the countries and respective regions, thus they should exclude vagrant or accidental species. An 'X' in the list will mean that countries have an obligation to designate sites for that species or a habitat in a particular biogeographical region. A question mark (?) will indicate that the status of the species or habitat is not clear and additional research is needed to clarify its status.

Evaluation of sufficiency

The contribution towards favourable conservation status for a given species or habitat type through the designation of a given list of ASCIs will not only depend on the intrinsic quality of those sites, but also on the intensity of the current or proposed conservation measures for each habitat or species including actions outside designated areas. The assessment must be based on the intrinsic value of the proposed sites for each species and habitat type, taking into account their potential contribution to the defined conservation goal, i.e. maintaining or restoring the species and habitats to "Favourable Conservation Status".

It is clear that the factors relevant to the assessment of network sufficiency for each species and habitat type will vary greatly from case to case, depending on different factors. In general, there should be a proportionate response by the parties, so that for the rarest habitats and species of European interest there will be a high proportion of the resource included within the Emerald Network, while for those which are more abundant there will be a lower proportion of the resource within the Network.

It would not be realistic to try to establish one single quantitative criterion equally valid for all habitats and species in all situations. The expected assessment of site lists for the biogeographical region must be based on a case-by-case (feature/country/biogeographical region) discussion, taking into account additional information on different parameters related to each species and habitat type.

Requirements to be met

Four requirements can be expected to be met by a representative list of sites to be considered as sufficient to enable a favourable conservation status for a given species or habitat type at biogeographical level:

- 1) it should represent sites from the entire distribution range of every Emerald species and habitat at a national level and biogeographical level if a party shares more than one region;
- 2) it should reflect the ecological variation of the habitat and of the species (genetic) within the biogeographical region. In case of species, site proposals must include the whole range of habitats that are needed for the different stages of its life-cycle such as reproduction, migrations, foraging (etc.)
- 3) it should be well-adapted to the specific conservation needs, in particular to those related to the distribution patterns (endemicity, degree of isolation/fragmentation, historical trends, climate change) and to the human pressures, threats and vulnerability of the considered species or habitat type;
- 4) if the first 3 conditions are met it will be expected that site proposals will include significant proportions of habitat area and species populations within the Emerald network versus the overall national resource.

Additional aspects of the evaluation of the sufficiency for bird species

Preliminary assessment of sufficiency of bird representation in Emerald sites for the biogeographical seminars will be done by comparing information recorded by Bern Convention Contracting Parties in the Standard Data Forms against various reference sources such as national and European Bird Atlases, Birds in Europe (2004) and the BirdLife International database on Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

This evaluation will be conducted as a combination of (1) a species by species approach, i.e. looking whether each species of Resolution No. 6 (1998) of the Bern Convention is sufficiently represented in the network, and (2) a site approach, i.e. looking whether all IBAs meeting certain numeric ornithological criteria for non-Resolution No. 6 (1998) migratory birds are covered by Emerald network.

Species by species evaluation will be done for all bird species listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998) at the country³ level. This evaluation will cover all stages of life-cycle of the listed species, and where appropriate separate assessments will be done for e.g. breeding, staging and wintering periods. The following questions will be asked for each species:

- Is the species a subject for Emerald site designation in the respective Contracting Party given the nature of its occurrence and distribution (i.e. should it be included on the Reference List for that country?). If the answer is positive, the further questions will be raised:
- What proportion of national population is covered by the Emerald sites (ASCIs)?
- Is the geographical distribution range within respective country sufficiently covered?
- Do the proposed ASCIs meet the ecological requirements of the species?
- Are all IBAs hosting the concerned species covered by the proposed Emerald sites? Do boundaries of both designations significantly differ?

³ For species other than birds, the evaluation is done at the level: feature/country/biogeographical region. Biogeographical regions are not distinguished during the evaluation for birds.

Additional aspects of the evaluation of the sufficiency for migratory bird species

The site approach is used to cover the need to protect areas of importance mainly for migratory species not listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998), but for which Emerald sites need to be designated⁴. The definition of ‘areas important for migratory species’ is limited to those meeting the following internationally accepted criteria:

- The site is known or thought 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 A4iii⁵);
- The site is known or thought to hold, 1% or more of flyway population or other distinct population of a waterbird species or other congregatory species (IBA criterions B1i and B1iii);
- The site is a ‘bottleneck site’ hosting 5,000 or more storks, 3,000 or more raptors and cranes (IBA criterion B1iv).

In this exercise, all Important Bird Areas meeting the above criteria will be checked whether they are covered by the proposed Emerald sites. Each of the above three criteria will appear as a separate evaluation unit per country and discussed as a separate item during the national biogeographic Seminars (Phase II).

Outcomes of the evaluation and Preparation of draft list of Emerald sites

A draft list of candidate ASCIs per biogeographical region within the region of concern at the seminar (West-Balkan, Caucasus, etc ...) will be prepared using the data from the respective Emerald databases and according to the table structure shown in the Table 1. Parties will be requested to check information in these lists so to be ready for the final approval at the biogeographical seminar.

Table 1. Contents of the “Draft List of Proposed Emerald Sites”

Column count	Description
A	ASCI code comprising nine characters, the first two being the ISO code for the Member State
B	ASCI name
C	Surface area of ASCI (ha)
D	Centroid coordinates of ASCI (latitude and longitude)
E	Number of species of Resolution No. 6 (1998) at the ASCI
F	Number of habitat types of Resolution No. 4 (1996) at the ASCI

The results of the preliminary evaluation will be: (1) draft Reference Lists for species and habitats; (2) draft Detailed Conclusions and (3) draft lists of proposed Emerald sites. These documents will form the basis of discussions at the biogeographical seminar.

The evaluation of the Emerald site proposals will also include bird species using the same methodology as for other species, contrary to the Natura 2000 biogeographical seminars which only consider species covered by the Habitats Directive.

More detailed guidelines for site selection and proposal evaluation for certain taxonomic groups (e.g., birds, fish) or environments (e.g., marine) may have to be further developed when parties involved in the Emerald phase II gain more experience.

⁴ According to point 1e of Recommendation No. 16 (1989) on the Areas of Special Conservation Interest (adopted by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention on 9 June 1989).

⁵ According to Heath, M.F. & Evans, M.I. 2000. Important Bird Areas in Europe. Priority sites for conservation. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 8)

2.4 Regional Biogeographical seminar

Regional biogeographical seminars will be organised involving all parties represented in a region (e.g. West-Balkan, South Caucasus, etc), provided that they all have submitted Emerald databases of sufficient quality to enable evaluation of sufficiency as described above. The seminars will discuss (1) reference lists; (2) the sufficiency of each species and habitat, according to the agreed reference lists and (3) suitability of sites for inclusion in the final list of ASCIs.

Each seminar will include participants from the Bern Convention Secretariat, the ETC/BD, the Bern Convention parties, independent experts chosen by the Council of Europe and the ETC/BD, an agreed number of representatives of relevant NGOs and observers from the neighbouring countries.

The seminar will be organised as a discussion forum among the stakeholders described above where each species and habitat will be assessed per party and biogeographical region, according to the agreed Reference List. The discussions will result in an agreed conclusion (see categories in Table 2) on sufficiency/ insufficiency of site proposals for each individual species and habitats present in the countries. Sites which do not host any species of Resolution No. 4 (1996) or habitats of Resolution No. 6 (1998) will be discussed to assess their suitability for designation as ASCI, referring to the general conditions for site selection described in Recommendation No. 16 (1989). Final detailed conclusions of the seminar, together with the revised Reference Lists and lists of approved sites, will be published on the Council of Europe's Emerald website.

At the later stages of the Emerald network building, after the biogeographical seminar(s), further assessments may be required due to additional site proposals or modifications of existing sites and bilateral meetings may be called between an individual Bern Convention party and Bern Convention secretariat (involving also ETC/BD as an independent jury) to follow the site designation progress in a concerned party.

2.5 Actions after the seminar

Final Detailed Conclusions will guide parties on what actions they should undertake in order to improve the Emerald network at national and biogeographical level. Table 2 shows the type and categories of conclusions that will be used during the seminar and actions that will be required from the parties after the seminar.

Together with dissemination of Final Detailed Conclusions, the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks and the Bern Convention Secretariat will agree on the date by when parties will be expected to deliver requested amendments and additions to site proposals.

Evaluation of site proposals will be an iterative process and further work will be required as a result of additional site proposals arising from seminar conclusions and/or changes due to improving scientific knowledge.

Table 2. Conclusions and their abbreviations used in biogeographical seminars. Codes can be combined, for example 'IN MOD and CD' would indicate that additional sites are required and that the existing proposals need correcting or completing.

Code	Meaning	Action required
SUF	Sufficient	No further sites needed
IN MAJOR	Insufficient major	No sites proposed at present. A major effort to designate sites is needed.
IN MOD	Insufficient moderate	One or a number of additional sites (or maybe extension to sites) required. IN MOD GEO means that additional site(s) are required in certain region to eliminate geographical gap.
IN MIN	Insufficient minor	No additional sites required but habitat/species should be noted on sites already proposed for other habitats/species

CD	Correction of data	Data needs to be corrected / completed / deleted
Sci Res	Scientific reserve	A definite conclusion is not possible: need to investigate/clarify a scientific issue – interpretation of habitat, controversial presence of species, etc.

3. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF SITES AT THE BIOGEOGRAPHICAL LEVEL

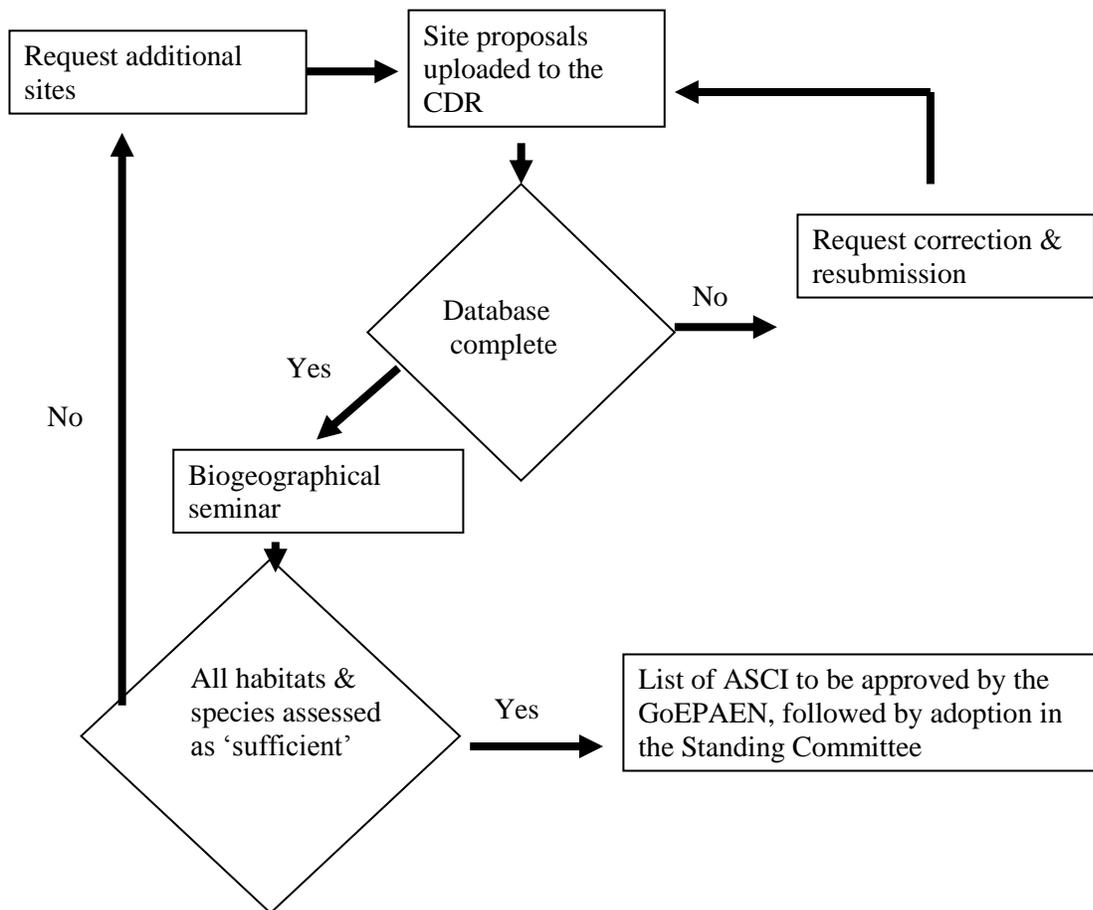
Once the iterative process of the evaluation of the Emerald candidate sites has reached a sufficient level of agreement, the last two steps of the overall procedure are undertaken:

- (8) Submission of the final database *sitelist* to GoEPAEN for discussion;
- (9) Submission of the sitelist to the Bern Convention Standing Committee for adoption.

The Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks receives the final database of official candidate sites for discussion. The GoEPAEN will then forward the final list to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention for adoption. This final list will be published using the format as described above (Table 1).

Published EU Lists of NATURA 2000 sites are available as examples at:
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:030:0001:0042:EN:PDF>

Figure 1. Schematic description of the Emerald network evaluation cycle: from database submission to approval of ASCIs.



Appendix 9



Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

**Revised Emerald Network Standard Data Form, adopted on 6 December 2013 by the
Standing Committee [revised Annex 1 to Resolution No. 5 (1998)]**

**Implementation of Recommendation 16
of the Bern Convention
EMERALD NETWORK
STANDARD DATA-ENTRY FORM
FOR AREAS OF SPECIAL CONSERVATION INTEREST (ASCI's)**

As amended from the NATURA 2000 standard data-entry form (version 11 July 2011)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1. TYPE

1.2. SITE CODE

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

1.3. SITE NAME:

1.4. FIRST COMPILATION DATE

Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M

1.5. UPDATE DATE

Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M

1.6. RESPONDENT:

Name/Organisation:

Address:

E-mail:

2.6. BIOGEOGRAPHICAL REGION(S):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Anatolian (... % ⁷)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boreal (... %)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mediterranean (... %)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alpine (... %)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black Sea (... %)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pannonian (... %)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arctic (... %)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Continental (... %)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steppic (... %)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Atlantic (... %)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Macaronesia (... %)		

Additional information on Marine Regions ⁸

<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine Arctic (... %)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine Black Sea (... %)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine Macaronesian (... %)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine Atlantic (... %)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine Caspian (... %)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine Baltic (... %)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine Mediterranean (... %)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

⁷ In case that a site is located in more than one region, the percentage coverage in the region should be entered (optional)

⁸ This field will be activated in case a Marine Regions Map is adopted by the Standing Committee

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

3.1. Habitat types present on the site and site evaluation for them:

Resolution 4 Habitat type					Site assessment			
Code	NP	Cover (ha)	Caves (number)	Data quality	A/B/C/D	A/B/C		
					Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global

NP: in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)

Cover: decimal values can be entered

Caves included in habitat types A1.44, A3, A4 and H1: enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available

Data quality: G = “Good” (e.g. based on surveys); M = “Moderate” (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = Poor (e.g. rough estimation)

3.2. Species listed in Resolution 6 and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site					Site assessment					
Group	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	Type	Size		Unit	Cat.	Data quality	A/B/C/D	A/B/C			
						Min.	Max.				Pop.	Cons.	Isol.	Global	

Group: A =Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P =Plants, R = Reptiles

S: in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes

NP: in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)

Type: p=permanent, r=reproducing, c=concentration, w=wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)

Unit: i = Individuals, p=pairs or other units according to the standardised list of population units and codes, in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting under the Birds and Habitats Directives

Abundance categories (Cat.): C=common, R= rare, V=very rare, P=present – to fill if data quality are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information

Data quality: G = ‘Good’ (e.g. based on surveys); M = ‘Moderate’ (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = ‘Poor’ (e.g. rough estimation); DD = Data deficient (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

3.3. Other Important Species of Flora and Fauna

Species					Population on the site				Motivation							
Group	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	Size		Unit	Cat.	Species appendix			Other Categories				
					Min.	Max.		C/R/V/P	I	II	III	A	B	C	D	

Group: A =Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, Fu = Fungi, I = Invertebrates, L = Lichens, M = Mammals, P =Plants, R = Reptiles

CODE: for Appendix I, II and III species the code provided in the Emerald reference portal should be used, in addition to the scientific name

S: in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes

NP: in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)

Unit: i = Individuals, p=pairs or other units according to the standardised list of population units and codes, in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting under the Birds and Habitats Directives

Cat.: Abundance categories: C=common, R= rare, V=very rare, P=present

Motivation categories: I, II, III: Appendix Species (Bern Convention), A: National Red List data; B: Endemics; C: International Conventions; D: other reasons

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1. GENERAL SITE CHARACTER:

Code	Habitat class	% cover
	TOTAL HABITAT COVER	100 %

Other site characteristics:

4.2. QUALITY AND IMPORTANCE:

4.3. Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures (code)	Pollution (optional) (code)	Inside/outside (i / o / b)

Positive impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures (code)	Pollution (optional) (code)	Inside/outside (i / o / b)

Further important impacts and activities with medium/low effect on the site

Negative impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures (code)	Pollution (optional) (code)	Inside/outside (i / o / b)

Positive impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures (code)	Pollution (optional) (code)	Inside/outside (i / o / b)

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input acidification, T = toxic inorganic chemicals,

O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions.

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.4. OWNERSHIP:

Type	(%)
Public	National/Federal
	State/Province
	Local/Municipal
	Any public
Joint or Co-Ownership	
Private	
Unknown	
Sum	100 %

4.5. DOCUMENTATION:

Link(s):

.....

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS:

5.1. DESIGNATION TYPES at national and regional level:

CODE	COVER (%)	CODE	COVER (%)	CODE	COVER(%)
<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>					

5.2. RELATION OF THE DESCRIBED SITE WITH OTHER SITES:

Designated at National or regional level:

TYPE CODE	SITE NAME	TYPE	COVER (%)
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Designated at the International level:

TYPE	NAME of the Site	TYPE	COVER (%)
RAMSAR CONVENTION:	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BIOGENETIC RESERVE:	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EURODIPLOMA SITE:	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BIOSPHERE RESERVE:	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BARCELONA CONVEN.:	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HELSINKI CONVEN. site:	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WORLD HERITAGE SITE:	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HELCOM site	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OSPAR site	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protected Marine Area	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER:	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5.3. SITE DESIGNATION:

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1. BODY(IES) RESPONSABLE FOR THE SITE MANAGEMENT :

Organisation:

Address:

E-mail:

6.2. MANAGEMENT PLAN(S):

An actual management plan does exist:

	Yes
--	-----

Name:

Link:

Name:

Link:

	No, but in preparatio
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	No
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6.3. CONSERVATION MEASURES

7. MAP OF THE SITE

ID or link to digitally available spatial data (in case spatial data are available through INSPIRE, the INSPIRE-ID should be given):

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format:

yes

no

Reference(s) to the original map used for the designation of the electronic boundaries:

Appendix 10

Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 168 (2013) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2013, on the European Charter of Fungi-gathering and biodiversity

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Noting that integrated ecosystem management and habitat protection have great advantages for the preservation of biodiversity and should go hand in hand with species protection efforts;

Aware that the identification of processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (as stated in Article 7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD) are also of utmost importance for the preservation of threatened species;

Conscious that the Fungi of Europe face an ever increasing range of threats, due to the fragmentation of their habitats, changing climate, and changes in land use;

Stressing that Fungi have high species richness, are involved in many biological interactions, and are crucial to several ecosystem processes;

Welcoming the recent advance in knowledge of the taxonomy, distribution, ecology, and conservation status of European macro-Fungi, which now enables this large component of biodiversity to start being appreciated, considered and incorporated into conservation actions;

Regretting, however, the lack of adequate representation of Fungi in national and European conservation legislation, and noting that their importance in providing ecosystems services is not recognised adequately;

Noting that no fungal species are represented in the Appendices of the Convention or in the European Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive);

Noting that Fungi in Europe benefit people as a resource to be gathered commercially and non-commercially for food as well as other consumptive uses, as a source of income;

Further noting that Fungi provide several important ecosystem services, including cultural ones;

Stressing that sustainably managed gathering of Fungi contributes to the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, the preservation of rural lifestyles and local economies;

Desirous to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe;

Recalling Decision VII/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD on Sustainable Use, adopted in 2004, and including the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity;

Further recalling Decision X/17 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD on the “Global strategy for plant conservation”;

Referring to the joint Planta Europa/Council of Europe “European Strategy for Plant Conservation 2008-2014: A sustainable future for Europe” (document T-PVS/Inf(2008)14);

Noting IUCN Resolutions 2.29 “IUCN Policy Statement on Sustainable Use of Wild Living Resources”, 4.26 on “Trust Building for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in line with the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity” and 5.33 on “Increasing the attention given to the conservation of fungi”;

Recalling the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, as updated in 2006, which aims “to identify and develop actions to enable the EU to achieve continuous improvement of quality of life both for current and for future generations, through the creation of sustainable communities able to manage and use resources efficiently and to tap the ecological and social innovation potential of the economy, ensuring prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion”;

Recalling the 2010 Bern Declaration on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Europe: 2010 and beyond;

Recalling recommendation No. 132 (2007) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, on the conservation of Fungi in Europe, recommending Parties to address habitat management as a priority within different sectors, for the conservation of Fungi species in Europe; to take into consideration the Guidance for the Conservation of Mushrooms in Europe (document T-PVS(2007)13) and apply it in the elaboration and implementation of their national conservation policies for larger Fungi; to seek to engage all who benefit from Fungi in efforts to conserve their habitats;

Further recalling the Standing Committee recommendations No. 153 (2011) on the Charter on the Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological Diversity on European Islands; No. 150 (2010) of on the European Charter on Recreational fishing and Biodiversity; and N°128 (2007) on the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity;°

Acknowledging the complementarities of these different instruments;

Desirous to ensure that Fungi-gathering in Europe is practiced in a sustainable manner so that this activity does not harm the conservation status of species and habitats;

Referring to the principles and guidelines included in the European Charter of Fungi-gathering and biodiversity (document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 26);

Considering this Charter as guidelines for competent national authorities and relevant stakeholders as appropriate,

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention, and invites Observer States and Organisations, to:

1. Devote special attention to Fungi and micro-Fungi in the implementation of their international obligations and also in the achievements of the 2020 targets adopted in the framework of the Convention of Biological Diversity;
2. Take into consideration the European Charter on Fungi-gathering and Biodiversity and apply its principles in the elaboration and implementation of their policies related to the sustainable use of biodiversity;
3. Inform the Standing Committee on the measures taken for the implementation of this recommendation.

Annex

EUROPEAN CHARTER ON FUNGI-GATHERING AND BIODIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

A. Gathering of fungi in Europe

People have been gathering fungi since ancient times and to this date wild fungi provide a range of uses to people around the world. In ancient Greek and Roman times edible fungi were already highly valued by the upper class.* Southern European (particularly France and Italy) and Eastern European countries traditionally value fungi and have a strong and long tradition of popular use. Northern and Western Europe has a much weaker tradition of collecting fungi and indeed fungi were often actively feared. In modern Europe, this distinction between mycophilic and mycophobic countries is becoming less and less clear and across Europe interest in gathering of fungi is steadily increasing. Some of this is due to commercial reasons, but the influence of immigrants from fungi loving cultures has also changed attitudes.

The fungal kingdom includes many taxonomic groups and diverse life strategies, from parasitism of animals and plants, through intimate symbiosis with photosynthesizing species (algae or cyanobacteria) as lichens, to ectomycorrhizal species whose huge symbiotic mycelial nets underpin tree populations in forests. This latter group forms a large proportion of the macrofungi, i.e. the fungi with large and easily visible fruiting bodies that are most often collected from the wild. Globally, there are more than 200 genera of macrofungi which contain species of use to people, mostly because of their edible properties^{†,‡}. This Charter primarily provides guidance regarding macrofungi that are used consumptively, and not for species with different ecosystem roles or management techniques, such as lichens.

Wild fungi deliver several ecosystem services. Commercial and non-commercial fungi gathering in Europe benefits people as a resource for food as well to a lesser extent for medicine, hallucinogens, dyes, ornaments, amadou hats, perfume, genetics, tinder, as a food source for livestock and in bioprospecting for natural product discovery; only a very small number of fungi are toxic or poisonous. As well as these provisioning (and income-providing) services, wild fungi provide many cultural, supporting and regulating ecosystem services[§]. Cultural services include recreation, education, social and aesthetic pleasures, such as the pleasure of observing or photographing them. They support forestry and agronomic production by boosting the growth of plants. They have a crucial role in maintaining balance within ecosystems, with specific roles of many species in recycling of organic matter, regulation of populations of parasites, etc.

There are two distinct patterns of fungi-gathering; for commercial and for non-commercial use. Non-commercial use covers a continuum from recreational to subsistence use and commercial use also exists on various scales. Traditionally, fungi gathering has provided an important, high quality food source for rural people^{**††}, and in some countries a high proportion of the population participate in this activity. The best European data are from systematic surveys in Finland, where 40% of the population collected fungi and 58%

* Buller AHR. The fungus lores of the Greeks and Romans. Transactions of the British Mycological Society 1914; 5: 21 – 66.

† Boa, E. 2004. Wild edible fungi. A global overview of their use and importance to people. *Non-wood forest products* 17. Rome, FAO.

‡ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/007/y5489e/y5489e08.htm>

§ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. Island Press, Washington, DC.

** Yang, Z.L. 2011. Mushrooms, health and nutrition. Pp. 161-173 in n5.

†† Cunningham, A.B. & Yang, X. (eds.) 2011. Mushrooms in forests and woodlands; resource management, values and local livelihoods. Earthscan, London & Washington, D.C.

gathered wild berries in 2010*. In rural communities from 7 countries in Europe, the lowest proportion gathering wild fruits and fungi in 2010 was 31% and averaged 53%†.

Over the past two decades, gathering of fungi has also increased in popularity among amateur enthusiasts. In some countries, gathering wild fungi is a major economic activity as well as being a national pastime. Since the 1980s, increased use of wild fungi by gourmet chefs and the development of an international market have created opportunities for commercial harvesting.‡ Assessing commercial value of harvests is challenging§, but the Baltic States, Poland and Yugoslavia were exporting, respectively, 3,900 tonnes in 1998; 9,200 tonnes in 1984; and 7,800 tonnes in 1990⁵. Total Turkish exports were about 800 tonnes in 1990 and the Turkish harvest value was estimated at US\$14.4 million in 1993³. Although commercial gathering is increasing, varying harvests and competition result in wide fluctuations of prices, with varying wholesale values of wild fungi harvests in the USA of US\$35-57 million during 1998-2007⁹. In Tibet the US\$225 million harvest of medicinal *Ophiocordyceps sinensis* approximated 40% of rural incomes^{**}, but there are few in Europe who make their sole living from harvesting wild fungi². However, the recreational value of European fungi may be much greater than the commodity value, as spending on collecting wild fungi and plant materials in 7 study communities were about a tenth as much as on angling and hunting, which is €35 billion annually across Europe⁷.

The expansion of commercial harvest in Europe has resulted in the introduction of national, regional and even communal regulatory and licensing systems in several countries. The regulatory and policy approach differs widely between countries and regions. In Scandinavia, fungi gatherers have open access and can pick as long as they do not harm property^{††}. Finland promotes greater harvest of fungi as an underutilized resource^{‡‡,§§}, while in the Netherlands gathering of fungi is strongly discouraged through codes and local acts^{***}. In France and Italy, there are gathering permits and timing and volume of harvest is regulated through daily limits and harvesting calendars. In some regions in Italy, this is complemented by the requirement to pass a proficiency test. In Spain, local communities administer permit schemes to regulate the collection of truffles². In Slovenia there is a general limit (2 kg/person/day) for gathering of fungi and a list of strictly protected fungi which are not allowed to gather, unless they are used for scientific or awareness purposes^{†††}.

Most of the existing regulations and policies are more oriented toward ensuring equitable access to the resource rather for conservation purposes. The impact of harvesting wild fungi on the fungi and their habitat is poorly understood and frequently debated. Trafficking is occurring in some countries, but illegal harvesting and trade is difficult to assess scientifically. Little is known about collectors and collection practices and the fairness of schemes in terms of equitable access to resources. Sustainability of fungi harvesting and its different dimensions will be discussed in more detail in section 1.5.

* Sievänen, T. & Neuvonen, M. 2011. Luonnon virkistyskäyttö 2010. Metlan working report 212 (<http://www.metla.fi/julkaisut/workingpapers/2011/mwp212.htm>)

† Kenward, R.E., Papathanasiou, J., Arampatzis, E. & Manos, B. (eds.) 2013. Transactional environmental support system design: global solutions. IGI-Global, Hershey, Pennsylvania.

‡ Schneider, E. 1999. Favored fungi: part one. Food Arts, October, 158–167.

§ Alexander, S.J., McLain, R.J., Jones, E.T. & Oswalt, S.N. 2011. Challenges and approaches to assessing the market value of wild fungi. Pp.87-106 in ⁵

** Winkler, D. 2008. Yartsa Gunbu (*Cordyceps sinensis*) and the fungal commodification of Tibet's rural economy. Economic Botany 62:269-277.

†† Saastamoinen, O. 1999. Forest policies, access rights and non-wood forest products in northern Europe. Unasylva, 50: 20–26.

‡‡ Härkönen, M. & Järvinen, I. 1993. Evaluation of courses for mushroom advisors in Finland. Aquilo, Ser. Botanica, 31: 93–97.

§§ Salo, K. 1999. Principles and design of a prognosis system for an annual forecast of non-wood forest products. Pp 35-44 in A. Niskanen & Demidova, N. (eds.) Research approaches to support non-wood forest products sector development: case of Arkhangelsk Region, Russia, European Forest Institute Proceedings 29 Joensuu, EFI.

*** Moore, D., Nauta, M.M., Evans, S.E. & Rotheroe, M.(eds.) 2001. Fungal conservation: issues and solutions. Cambridge University Press.

††† Official Gazette of Republic of Slovenia, 58/2011 (<http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?urlid=201158&stevilka=2723>)

B. The Bern Convention and its relevance to the gathering of fungi

The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (hereafter referred to as the Bern Convention*) aims to conserve wild flora and fauna species within States, and emphasises the need for co-operation in the conservation of species and habitats across national borders, with emphasis on endangered and vulnerable species (including migrants) and their habitats. It is the primary international treaty governing biodiversity conservation and management in Europe, and provides the foundations for this *Charter*.

However, no fungal species are represented in the Appendices of the Bern Convention or in the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. In fact, nature conservation actions have largely neglected fungi due to insufficient knowledge of their ecology, taxonomy, distribution and conservation status. However, in recent decades scientific knowledge has significantly increased, as has awareness of declining fungal populations in Europe. These declines have been brought about by loss of habitats due to changed land uses and degradation of habitats especially due to nitrification. Although no fungi are listed under the Bern Convention, the European Council for Conservation of Fungi is an observer and reviewed for the Standing Committee the status and threats of 33 species[†] that are Red-Listed by IUCN as endangered.

Following the “Declaration of Cordoba”[‡], the “Guidance for the conservation of mushroom in Europe” [document T-PVS(2007)13revised] inspired Recommendation No. 132 (2007) of the Standing Committee on the conservation of fungi in Europe, adopted by the Standing Committee on 29 November 2007. This Charter builds on this Recommendation by providing guidance to help ensure fungi gathering is carried out in a sustainable way.

C. Sustainability principles

The definition of sustainable development was formulated by the World Commission on Environment and Development Conference in 1987. It was endorsed under Agenda 21 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Rio in 1992, which also launched the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The CBD’s overall objective is to encourage actions that will lead to a sustainable future[§]. It has three main goals: conservation of biodiversity; sustainable use of biodiversity; fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The overall aim of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, as renewed in 2006^{**}, is “*to identify and develop actions to enable the EU to achieve continuous improvement of quality of life both for current and for future generations, through the creation of sustainable communities able to manage and use resources efficiently and to tap the ecological and social innovation potential of the economy, ensuring prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion*”.

The IUCN developed a Sustainable Use Initiative to help implement the CBD. Following a Policy Statement in 2000: “*The use of wild living resources, if sustainable, is an important conservation tool because the social and economic benefits derived from such use provide incentives for people to conserve them*”, which was adopted at its 2nd World Conservation Congress in 2000, IUCN arranged three regional workshops. These led to a synthesis workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, after which the 7 th CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2004 adopted the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (AAPG)^{††}.

The AAPG are based on the assumption that it is possible to use biodiversity in a manner in which ecological processes, species and genetic variability remain above the thresholds needed for long-term viability, and that all resource managers and users have the responsibility to ensure that such use does not exceed these capacities. In a parallel process, a Workshop on the Ecosystem Approach held in Malawi during

* <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/104.htm>

[†] Implementation of Recommendation No. 132 (2007) on the conservation of fungi in Europe (T-PVS/Files (2011)19)

[‡] Junta of Andalucía 2007. Declaration of Cordoba. First World Conference on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wild Fungi, Cordoba, Andalucía, Spain.

[§] CBD fact sheet <http://www.cbd.int/iyb/doc/prints/factsheets/iyb-cbd-factsheet-cbd-en.pdf>

^{**} <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10117.en06.pdf>

^{††} <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/publications/addis-gdl-en.pdf> (see Appendix 3.2)

1998 identified twelve principles/characteristics for managing biodiversity at an ecosystem level, seeking to achieve a satisfactory balance between conservation and development. These “*Malawi Principles for the Ecosystem Approach (MPEA)*”^{*} were also confirmed at the CBD 7th COP, noting their strong cross-linkage to AAPG. They advocate integrated management of land, water and living resources for promoting the conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way, recognising that humans and their diverse cultures are an integral part of ecosystems.

The AAPG and MPEA can be summarised together (see Appendix 4) as recommendations for:

1. *Supportive and linked governance at all levels with harmonised regulations that promote societal benefits from conservation and avoid perverse effects.*
2. *Avoidance of adverse impacts within or between ecosystems and of short-termism, especially when faced with inevitable change.*
3. *Transparent and adaptive management along a use-protection continuum, based on interdisciplinary science, monitoring and timely feedbacks.*
4. *Encouragement of economic/cultural incentives for sustainable use and conservation, with sharing of benefits (and costs) especially at the local level, while avoiding waste.*
5. *Decentralisation of management to an appropriate bio-economic scale, especially to empower, hold accountable and access knowledge of local people.*
6. *Education, awareness and inclusion of managers, resource users, and society at large.*

As will be seen, the AAPG and MPEA form the basis of the Principles and Guidelines in section 2 of this document.

D. Gathering of fungi as a tool for biodiversity conservation

In June 2010 the CBD Secretariat released the third Global Biodiversity Outlook. The report shows that the nations of the world have individually and collectively failed to meet the 2010 biodiversity target. Over the last decade the main global drivers of biodiversity loss[†] have tended to intensify. After the failure to meet the 2010 biodiversity target, the 10th Conference of the Parties to the CBD met in Japan and adopted a “post-2010” Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2020, which includes ambitious restoration goals for biodiversity. Recently the European Environmental Agency (EEA) emphasized the need for individual Europeans to become engaged in halting the loss of biodiversity[‡]. Communities and individuals must act if nations are to succeed in meeting the 2020 deadline and sub-targets.

Many of the fungi that provide a consumptive use to people also play a vital supporting role in ecosystems, through the symbiotic relationships known as mycorrhizas that they form with plants, or as saprotrophs important in recycling materials back through the soil. About 80 % of the vascular plants profit from having different fungi next to their roots. Mycorrhizal fungi are difficult to grow in culture and attempts have failed in the absence of their natural symbiotic partners. For instance, truffles and other valuable wild edible fungi depend on trees for their growth and cannot be cultivated artificially. In some areas, the loss of forest reduces the potential production of harvestable fungi. Conversely, many tree species are dependent on their symbiotic mycorrhizal fungi (e.g. *Boletus* species) to enable them to grow in nutrient-poor soils. Any unsustainable harvest of fungi could therefore have a direct negative impact not only on the fungi themselves, but on their symbionts as well. In addition, over-harvesting of fungi will have a spill down effect in the food chain through competition with animals that depend on fungi as a food source. To achieve any positive conservation outcomes of fungi gathering, sustainability of the use is therefore a prerequisite.

* <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/cop/cop-04/information/cop-04-inf-09-en.pdf> (see Appendix 3.3)

†The main drivers noted by CBD are habitat loss, the unsustainable use and overexploitation of resources, climate change, invasive alien species, and point source and diffuse pollution.

‡<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/646&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Given sustainability of use and a supportive management context, however, the cultural and economic values attributed to fungi through consumptive use can provide a direct incentive to preserve environments where fungi grow, to establish fungi in newly created habitats and for measures that enhance biodiversity more generally (e.g. through adding tree species that support mycorrhizas to plantations). There are also examples of villages developing mushroom management plans involving scaled down harvest of timber⁶.

E. Ensuring best practices

Harvesting does not generally impact on regeneration of fungi, as long as only the mature fruit bodies are picked without harming the body of the fungus (often underground, or embedded in another substrate) and sufficient spores are released from old or non-harvested fungi for reproduction. There are several studies that demonstrate that the harvesting of fungi itself does not significantly impact the continued fruiting of the harvested fungi in the short to medium term^{*,†}. Potential effects on the longer term, including reduced genetic variability, require further research. In Finland, none of the threatened *Aphylllophorales* (as then classified) species have become threatened as a result of picking or collecting¹⁴ and a review in 2011 of the 33 fungi species Red-Listed in 2007 as Threatened in Europe[‡] shows that only one species had harvest listed as a possible threat.

Fungi gathering can, however, negatively impact populations if unsustainable harvesting techniques are used. Trampling of soil, crude raking of leaf litter and indiscriminate digging for truffles is harmful^{16,29} and can affect production. These impacts can be reduced through the implementation of best practice. For instance, the traditional use of trained dogs or pigs to sniff out truffles negates the need for indiscriminate digging.

When harvesting is done on a small scale, it rarely leads to conservation concern. However, large-scale gathering may have a negative effect, particularly if unsustainable harvest techniques are used. In Serbia, Poland and Portugal, negative effects of large scale commercial harvest of fungi on fungi and their ecosystem is alleged^{14,25}, although there is currently no scientific research to support these claims. Commercial harvesting does increase the pressure on local habitats, so it is important not only that more research is done on management of gathering fungi (together with all other aspects of mycology), but also that the sound regulation developed in some countries, such as France, be maintained and taken into account at the European level. In particular, more attention is needed to illegal harvesting and trade that is already occurring in some areas. Another need is to avoid the unwitting collection, by recreational gatherers of fungi, of rare species with edible look-alikes, to which end identification guides (including on-line) are to be encouraged[§].

In addition to environmental sustainability, there are several social aspects that need to be considered in order to ensure that the harvest of fungi is sustainable. Fair and equitable access to forest, forest resources and their benefits is a critical issue. Unfair exclusion or inequitable benefit sharing may lead to people ignoring regulations and to feelings of resentment that can lead to unsustainable practices. With more people now harvesting mushrooms for commercial, recreational and subsistence purposes, there is potential for conflicts to develop among the different users of the forest resources, including non-consumptive interests. Understanding the different uses and users as well as developing regulation that acknowledges these differences is imperative to preventing such conflict.

Sustainable gathering of fungi depends on minimizing any adverse impact of harvest and harvesting procedures on the fungal resource and the habitat. This can be achieved through ensuring best environmental and social practice. Several organisations, such as mycological societies (e. g. Slovenian Mycological Society) and the Scottish Wild Mushroom Forum, have developed codes of practice for the sustainable harvest of wild fungi, which are promoted in mycological publications^{**††} or on the internet, and illustrated in Annex V. “No-

* Norvell, L. 1995 Loving the chanterelle to death? The ten-year Oregon chanterelle project. *McIlvanea* 12:6-23

† Egli, S., Martina, P., Buser, C., Stahel, W. & Ayer, F. 1990. Mushroom picking does not impair future harvests – results of a long-term study in Switzerland. *Biological Conservation* 129: 271-276.

‡ Implementation of Recommendation No. 132 (2007) on the conservation of fungi in Europe (T-PVS/Files (2011)19)

§ <http://www.cybertruffle.org>

** Dyke, A. 2001. The Scottish Wild Mushroom Forum. Pp. 219-222 in ¹⁴.

†† Pilz, D. 2011. Ensuring sustainable harvests of wild mushrooms. Pp. 144-159 in ⁵.

picking” may be appropriate in areas where natural processes are studied and may also be the most equitable approach where demand for fungal resources becomes unsustainable.

One of the challenges with the implementation of such codes is that fungi gathering is done by a large amount of individuals and that representative organisations for fungi gatherers are uncommon, making it difficult to target the “fungi gathering community” effectively except perhaps through the internet. Moreover, focusing more on the protective aspects of CBD than its wider remit for sustainable use has produced some tensions between professional mycologists and gatherers*. In view of the potential benefits to people (ecosystem services) and to biodiversity from restoration of fungi, it is especially important to encourage scientists and other citizens to support each other. Professional ecologists need to improve techniques for monitoring fungal biodiversity status and threats that can be applied widely and easily by local communities. Research on restoration is important too, not only to develop simple and effective techniques but also to include studies of species genetics and distributions needed to ensure that re-introductions use appropriate stock, as inappropriate fungi could be hard to remove. There is a great need to encourage the very large community of interests in fungi to organise and cooperate.

F. The need for a *Charter on Fungi-Gathering and Biodiversity*

This document follows on the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, which was adopted by the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats[†]. Through Recommendation No. 128 (2007) “on the *European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity*”[‡], States Party to the Bern Convention were asked to take into consideration the *European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity* “and apply its principles in the elaboration and implementation of their hunting policies so as to ensure that hunting is carried out in a sustainable way”. In 2008 they agreed to complement it with a similar instrument to cover recreational fishing activities and the European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity[§] was adopted through Recommendation No. 150 in November 2010.

The principles and the approach of the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity and this document are equally applicable to the governance of other consumptive and non-consumptive uses of biodiversity. The IUCN recognized this at its 4th World Conservation Congress in October 2008 and again at its 5th World Conservation Congress in September 2012. In its resolution 4.032 (Trust Building for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in line with the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity), the IUCN encourages further co-operation between the CoE, governments and other stakeholders to prepare guidelines under the same principles for new European charters to promote conservation through sustainable use of other components of biodiversity. In addition, IUCN Resolution WCC-2012-Res-033 calls for an increase in the attention given to conservation of fungi.

Following this endorsement at global level and the adoption of the European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity, the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention included in its activities for 2012 a “Charter on gathering of mushrooms and other wild biodiversity (in co-operation with IUCN”, with the participation of representatives of Parties to the Convention as well as observer organisations (and including the European Council for Conservation of Fungi; the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU; and the International Union for Conservation of Nature). A Working Group met at the IUCN Species Survival Commission chairs conference in Abu Dhabi during February 2012. The mandate of the Working Group was to prepare a draft Charter for submission to the next meeting of the Standing Committee to be held on 27-30 November 2012, and a first draft was prepared for the meeting of the Bureau in September 2012. Following considerable interest and discussion by Standing Committee in November 2012, a final draft was prepared for the meetings of Bureau and Standing Committee in 2013.

* Cunningham, A.B. 2011. Fungi and the future. Pp. 175-203 in ⁵.

[†] European Charter of Hunting and Biodiversity (T-PVS (2007)07)

[‡] See at: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/WCD/Rec2007_en.asp#

[§] European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity (T-PVS (2010)3)

G. Scope

This *European Charter on Fungi-Gathering and Biodiversity* (hereafter referred to as the *Charter*) addresses the gathering (including both recreational and commercial activities) of wild and indigenous fungi in Europe, in accordance with the inspiring principles of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979). The Charter does not address other human activities that may impact populations of fungi, such as forestry or livestock management practices.

H. Purpose

The main aim of the Bern Convention is the conservation of wild fauna and flora and their associated natural habitats, which include fungi. Gatherers of fungi can contribute to the fulfilment of this aim through conservation of populations of fungi by caring for their habitats, assisting in monitoring and research, and raising public awareness for conservation issues.

This *Charter* provides a non-binding set of principles and guidelines for recreational and commercial gatherers of fungi, as well as regulators and managers. These address common principles and good practices for sustainable gathering of fungi species in Europe, and also aim to help fulfil the commitments of European States on conservation through use of components of biodiversity as laid down in the CBD, as advised by the AAPG* (see 3.2 Appendix 2) and the *Malawi Principles for the Ecosystem Approach*⁵¹ (see 3.3 Appendix 3).

By endorsing this *Charter*, the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention recognizes that sustainable gathering is a legitimate use of fungi resources and can be an important tool for biodiversity conservation.

I. Goals

The *Charter* promotes principles and guidelines intended to ensure that the gathering of fungi in Europe is practised in a sustainable manner, with a positive contribution to the conservation of biodiversity and the needs of society, including life quality.

J. Objectives

The Charter:

- Provides a set of non-binding principles and guidelines to enhance sustainable gathering of fungi within the context of conservation of biodiversity;
- Encourages gatherer involvement in monitoring, management, and research efforts directed towards stewardship and the conservation of fungi and their habitats;
- Promotes forms of commercial gathering of fungi that are sustainable and non-detrimental to biodiversity, while providing local communities with socio-economic incentives to conserve and manage fungi and their habitats;
- Promotes co-operation between gatherers of fungi and other stakeholders in the conservation and management of biodiversity;
- Encourages education, awareness and information measures directed at gatherers of fungi;
- Promotes best practices to ensure the socio-cultural, economic and ecological sustainability of the gathering of fungi in the long term, notably through Appendix 5, which simplifies recommendations as a code of conduct for gatherers of fungi.

* <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/publications/addis-gdl-en.pdf>

EUROPEAN CHARTER ON FUNGI-GATHERING AND BIODIVERSITY

1. PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

The principles and guidelines in this Charter address the role of gathering fungi in the management and conservation of biodiversity. These broad principles include all 12 principles from MPEA (M1-12) and 14 from AAPG (A1-14) grouped into social, ecological and economic focal areas and combinations of these (see Appendix 3.4). These recommendations, which contain the essence of the MPEA and the AAPG, provide a basis for conserving biodiversity through gathering fungi and other uses of wild resources. They are based upon the internationally accepted standards of sustainability and are to be treated as advisory and non-binding in nature.

1.1 **Principle 1: Favour multi-level governance that maximises benefit for conservation and society**

1.1.1 *Rationale:*

Human decisions that change habitats and affect species are influenced by regulatory and financial incentives at several levels, as well as by cultural and social factors. Policies affecting these factors need to be established at the most appropriate geographical level and to remain flexible, in order to accommodate different biological, economic and social conditions and to accommodate adaptive management. Increasing uniformity of culture and markets creates special regulatory challenges in guiding local use of land and wild living resources to retain diverse ecological conditions.

1.1.2 *Guidelines:*

Conservation will be enhanced if

1.1.2.1 *Regulators and managers:*

- a) Take into consideration the international, national, regional and local – as appropriate - conservation status of fungi and their habitats;
- b) For maximum flexibility, encourage the creation of policies and structures that reduce conflicts and create synergies between fungi-gathering and other conservation interests, reward best practices (e.g. with subsidies, privileges or other incentives) and regulate against malpractice;
- c) Ensure that the policies and structures accommodate local cultural demands (i.e. multiple use) and ecological conditions as well as higher-level policy;
- d) Audit for regulatory or other incentives that are detrimental for conservation of biodiversity, including fungi, and remove, neutralise or compensate for them.

- and -

1.1.2.2 *Commercial and non-commercial gatherers of fungi:*

- a) Assist authorities at all levels to develop and to promote incentives for conserving biodiversity through sustainable use;
- b) Strive to attain maximum conservation benefit through use of fungi at all levels.

1.2 **Principle 2: Ensure that regulations are understandable and respected**

1.2.1 *Rationale:*

Regulations can have costs for conservation as well as for stakeholders. Costs are least when minimal administration is combined with maximum motivation to comply, through easy compliance and reliable detection of non-compliance, while taking into account local uses and practices. Inappropriate (including incomprehensible or non-applicable) regulation may induce negative effects (e.g. disruption of habitats and microhabitats, unwitting impacts on other resource beneficiaries, etc.) if non-compliance is simple and

rewarding, or if the rationale behind the regulations is not understood. There is generally a lack of coordination of fungi-gatherers at national and regional levels to assist in building understanding of need for regulation, and at international level to ensure awareness of regulations in each country by those who cross borders to collect fungi, especially any networks of protected areas, and to prevent illegal harvesting and trade. Appendix 5 provides a simple example of a Code of Conduct for gatherers to observe.

1.2.2 Guidelines:

Conservation will be enhanced if

1.2.2.1 Regulators and managers:

- a) Favour regulations which are simple, flexible, logical, locally relevant and address biological principles, (inter)national policy, the socio-economic context, as well as reasonable stakeholder concerns and expectations;
- b) Impose only restrictions which have a conservation rationale and that will be easily understood by those gathering fungi;
- c) Encourage the creation of organisations to guide and represent fungi-gatherers at all levels;
- d) Have transparent regulatory processes which allow for the active participation of fungi-gatherers and other stakeholders;
- e) Promote subsidiarity and self-regulation by creating regulations that can be adapted to local governance and enforcement needs;
- f) Facilitate awareness-building of regulations that differ across borders, for example through translation and use of information technology, and work to harmonise rules where possible.

- and -

1.2.2.2 Commercial and non-commercial gatherers of fungi:

- a) Assist in development and acceptance of effective regulations;
- b) Inform themselves, follow and encourage respect for all rules and regulations pertaining to gathering fungi, conservation measures (including protected species and areas as well as fallow years), and private property;
- c) Embrace self-regulation and voluntary best practice where possible;
- d) Assist in preventing and reporting illegal or irresponsible gathering of fungi.

1.3 Principle 3: Ensure that harvest is ecologically sustainable

1.3.1 Rationale:

It is important to ensure that any harvest of wild fungi is sustainable. The conservation status of species needs to be maintained at levels that are robust enough to sustain harvest. Sustainable use requires information garnered from research and monitoring, and to be regulated through the active use of reliable science and local knowledge. Although harvest of fungal fruiting bodies or of fungal components for cultivation is in principle sustainable, care is needed to avoid damage to microhabitats through trampling, raking leaf-litter and otherwise disrupting mycelia extensively. Ensuring sustainable harvest also includes taking into consideration possible food-chain effects of the harvest of fungi. "No pick" zones may be required for particularly sensitive areas. Ensuring social sustainability that benefits a wide base of human consumers may also motivate greatest resources for conservation.

1.3.2 Guidelines:

Conservation will be enhanced if

1.3.2.1 Regulators and managers:

- a) Promote conservation rules of thumb for sustainable harvest based on best practice and resilience of different fungal taxa to collection (e.g. leaving some fruiting bodies unpicked, avoid picking of immature fruiting bodies, not picking more than can be used);
- b) Where appropriate, develop and implement adaptive governance for regulation of commercial harvest that takes into account species behaviour and ecology (including temporal fluctuations, mycorrhizal, other symbiotic and trophic effects), their long-term conservation status and possible effects of harvest on ecosystem services;
- c) Cooperate with and encourage gatherers of fungi, where appropriate gatherer bodies exist, to develop and apply methods for simple and effective monitoring and management of fungi species, habitats and ecosystem services;
- d) Cooperate with neighbouring administrative authorities to properly manage and conserve population integrity, in terms of genetics and metapopulation effects, where appropriate;
- e) Encourage standardised systems for collecting data on harvest participants and characteristics, for use in adaptive management of fungal populations and gathering at all appropriate scales.

- and -

1.3.2.2 Commercial and non-commercial gatherers of fungi:

- a) Implement best practice and conservation rules of thumb when gathering fungi (e.g. see Appendix 5);
- b) Assist in data collection, monitoring and research;

- and -

1.3.2.3 Commercial gatherers of fungi:

- a) Work to integrate their harvesting activities into the adaptive management of populations and harvestable fungi species, their habitats and communities, and other ecosystem services;

1.4 Principle 4: Maintain wild populations of indigenous species with adaptive gene pools

1.4.1 Rationale:

Native species and their habitats (and human livelihoods derived from them) can be adversely impacted by either the 1) introduction of invasive alien species, or 2) human selection for traits which may jeopardise the long-term viability of their populations.

1.4.2 Guidelines:

Conservation will be enhanced if

1.4.2.1 Regulators and managers:

- a) Deter release into the wild of non-native fungi species or genetic variants that could become invasive and/or negatively affect native fungi or their ecosystems;
- b) Facilitate and record the reestablishment of originally indigenous fungi species;
- c) Where practical, incorporate genetic considerations into any management plans and monitor the genetic characteristics of fungal stocks to ensure genetic adaptability of populations;
- d) Encourage research that improves the efficacy of these measures.

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- and -

1.4.2.2 *Commercial and non-commercial gatherers of fungi:*

- a) Avoid release of non-native fungi species or genetic variants into the wild;
- b) Use only native plants and fungi for restoration initiatives;
- c) Where appropriate, aid scientists and managers in monitoring genetic characteristics of populations.

1.5 Principle 5: Maintain environments that support healthy and robust populations of harvestable species

1.5.1 *Rationale:*

Fungi are vulnerable to pollutants and human impacts on their populations and habitats. It is therefore in the interest of all who enjoy or benefit from fungi to work together to reduce or mitigate the effects of environmental degradation. There is a need to monitor the status of harvested species and their habitats, including development of indicators for possible threats to them and their habitats.

1.5.2 *Guidelines:*

Conservation will be enhanced if

1.5.2.1 *Regulators and managers:*

- a) Favour development of mutually agreed systems that motivate gatherers of fungi to help conserve habitats, including plant species, soils and other substrates on which fungi depend;
- b) Favour development of and implement standardised systems for monitoring the health and condition of fungal populations, the habitats and ecosystems on which they depend, and the threats to those systems;
- c) Consider possible negative impacts of gathering fungi on other ecosystem services and minimise and mitigate these where necessary;
- d) Consider diversity of fungi species when designating areas for special conservation measures.

- and -

1.5.2.2 *Commercial and non-commercial gatherers of fungi:*

- a) Actively contribute to the conservation and restoration of habitats and fungi stocks at appropriate scales where feasible;
- b) Identify and encourage preservation of areas with fungi of conservation concern;
- c) Work to ensure that their activities do not adversely impact local environments and habitats.

1.6 Principle 6: Encourage use to provide economic incentives for conservation

1.6.1 *Rationale:*

Stakeholders can be motivated to conserve some wild species and their habitats by recognising their inherent economic value.

1.6.2 *Guidelines:*

Conservation will be enhanced if

1.6.2.1 *Regulators and managers:*

- a) Understand that suppliers of harvest opportunities (e.g. landowners, reserve managers), especially for commercial use, expect fair compensation for the services and opportunities they provide;
- b) Encourage harvest arrangements that provide equitable and just socio-economic benefits to local stakeholders and communities:

- c) Where official fees or taxes are appropriate, e.g. to fund conservation research and training, set them at reasonable levels in order that these do not represent barriers to local participation;
- d) Favour incentives for local stakeholders and communities to uphold or improve the diversity of species and habitats.

- and -

1.6.2.2 Non-commercial gatherers of fungi:

- a) Are willing to make reasonable contributions and accept management structures for access and gathering opportunity, as well as the conservation and management of fungi and their habitats;

- and -

1.6.2.3 Commercial gatherers of fungi:

- a) Acknowledge and accept that their activities should benefit local economies and stakeholders and thereby enhance conservation efforts;
- b) Accept that their access can be limited or prohibited, and/or that they can be subjected to greater contributory requirements than local non-commercial gatherers.

1.7 Principle 7: Ensure that harvest is properly utilised and wastage avoided

1.7.1 Rationale:

Utilising a renewable resource to the fullest possible extent will maximise the economic incentives for local people as well as indicating respect for the environment and in some cases minimising bio-pollution. Collectors without adequate identification skills may gather and then discard inedible but rare species. Fungi can also accumulate radio-nuclides and other pollutants, which may lead to their discard after collection. Certification of safe and sustainable origin, e.g. through the FairWild system, is an eventual option for some contexts of use.

1.7.2 Guidelines:

Conservation will be enhanced if

1.7.2.1 Regulators and managers:

- a) Encourage the proper handling and processing of harvested fungi;
- b) Help inform gatherers of fungi concerning risks of anthropogenic toxicity (e.g. pollution);
- c) Encourage compliance of fungal products with standards for health and hygiene before sale and/ or commercial consumption.
- d) Consider supporting certification for commercial gatherers or products.

- and -

1.7.2.2 Commercial and non-commercial gatherers of fungi:

- a) Properly care for harvested fungi in order to ensure against wastage and contamination;
- b) Stay informed of existing and new risks arising from collecting fungi;
- c) Observe rules for preparation of fungi to guard against detrimental health effects.

1.8 Principle 8: Empower local stakeholders and hold them accountable

1.8.1 Rationale:

With good local knowledge and monitoring, management at local level is most rapidly adaptive. It also both empowers stakeholders and holds them immediately accountable for meeting requirements of resource beneficiaries and conservation. Local management must be in harmony with higher level goals.

1.8.2 Guidelines:

Conservation will be enhanced if

1.8.2.1 Regulators and managers:

- a) Where appropriate, promote and facilitate decentralisation of any management of fungi species that are stable or increasing at local or regional levels;
- b) Where appropriate, facilitate the empowerment and accountability of local stakeholders, especially gatherers of fungi, in this decentralised process;
- c) Promote systems that ensure equitable sharing of benefits among resource beneficiaries.

- and -

1.8.2.2 Non-commercial gatherers of fungi:

- a) Have knowledge regarding ecology of fungi and conservation practices;
- b) Recognise their role as resource stewards and actively participate in practical management and conservation measures;
- c) Interact with other interests and local authorities to find best solutions.

- and -

1.8.2.3 Commercial gatherers of fungi:

- a) Recognise the cultures, traditions and needs of local people (including non-commercial gatherers);
- b) Work closely with local gatherers, land managers and other interests to ensure integration of activities and avoid conflicts.

1.9 Principle 9: Encourage competence and responsibility among users of wild resources

1.9.1 Rationale:

For practices to be ecologically and socially sustainable, those using wild resources are advised to be responsible and proficient regarding methods, equipment and species they utilise. Consumption of poisonous fungi has both a human cost and a potential cost for conservation, if this leads to discouragement of forms of harvesting that motivate conservation. Capacity and competence may best be encouraged by organisations that are granted privileges to represent resource beneficiaries while informing and encouraging best practise among those beneficiaries.

1.9.2 Guidelines:

Conservation will be enhanced if

1.9.2.1 Regulators and managers:

- a) Encourage and facilitate accessible education and training programmes (e.g. fungal identification guides in local languages, fungal forays, talks in local communities) for gatherers of fungi, especially to ensure correct identification of harvestable, poisonous and rare fungi;

- b) Promote self-organisation and network creation at local, regional and national levels, encourage such groups to educate gatherers of fungi in identification and other aspects of conservation, and consider approving their certification programmes for gatherers;
- c) Cooperate with organisations that coordinate gatherers of fungi to encourage recruitment from both sexes, all ages and backgrounds.

- and -

1.9.2.2 Commercial and non-commercial gatherers of fungi:

- a) Are proficient in the methods that can legally be used for gathering fungi;
- b) Maintain sufficient knowledge on the identification, habits and ecology of harvestable fungi species as well as poisonous or rare species that can be confused with these;
- c) Know the laws and regulations governing gathering of fungi and the conservation of fungi;
- d) Teach new gatherers of fungi the skills and knowledge they require to be competent and responsible.

1.10 Principle 10: Encourage co-operation between all stakeholders in management of harvested species, associated species and their habitats

1.10.1 Rationale:

All stakeholders, including authorities, state agencies, landowners, gatherers of fungi, other resource beneficiaries and other conservation interests, can contribute positively to the proper management of biodiversity through co-operation. Such co-operation promotes a synergistic role for sustainable use in broad conservation efforts whereas conflicts waste human resources.

1.10.2 Guidelines:

Conservation will be enhanced if

3.10.2.1 Regulators and managers:

- a) Seek to engage all who benefit from fungi in efforts to conserve fungi and their habitats
- b) Promote institutional structures that are inclusive of all stakeholder interests;
- c) Encourage public understanding of conservation and economic as well as cultural benefits that can be derived from responsible and sustainable harvest;
- d) Seek opportunities and provide incentives for co-operation between different interests;
- e) Use all possible measures to avoid and resolve conflicts.

- and -

3.10.2.2 Commercial and non-commercial gatherers of fungi:

- a) Seek opportunities to benefit humans, fungi and their habitats;
- b) Actively seek alliances with other local stakeholders.

1.11 Principle 11: Encourage acceptance of sustainable and consumptive use as a conservation tool

1.11.1 Rationale:

In order to ensure acceptance by society, it is important for all users of fungi to communicate the positive benefits of their use for biodiversity conservation and for all stakeholders to work together to educate the public regarding important conservation issues. Ensuring social sustainability that benefits a wide base of human consumers may also motivate greatest resources for conservation. The ownership by local people of services rendered by ecosystems, such as the harvesting of wild plants and fungi, can be a tool for the sustainable conservation of the natural ecosystems concerned.

1.11.2 Guidelines:

Conservation will be enhanced if

1.11.3 Regulators and managers:

- a) Engender a framework which ensures the long-term acceptance by society of the conservation benefits derived from harvesting wild species;
 - b) Preserve cultural, historical and aesthetic values related to fungi and fungi gathering.
- and -

1.11.4 Commercial and non-commercial gatherers of fungi:

- a) Are sensitive and respectful to local interests and cultures;
- b) Strive to be ambassadors for gathering fungi through good behaviour and practices;
- c) Respect private property, local restrictions and the needs of those who wish to observe fungi;
- d) Educate and inform other interests regarding the benefits of gathering fungi and conservation in general.

2. APPENDICES**2.1 Appendix 1: Terms and concepts**

Best practice: planning, organisation, managerial and/or operational practices that have proven successful in particular circumstances in one or more regions in the field and which can have both specific and universal applicability.

*Biological diversity (biodiversity) **: The variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. (Article 2 of the CBD).

Commercial gatherers: Agents or agencies that directly or indirectly are responsible for the gathering of fungi for commercial purposes.

Ecosystem †: A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment that interact as a functional unit.

Ecosystem services: Ecosystem services are all services humans derive from ecosystems. They comprise four categories: supporting (e.g. nutrient cycling), regulating (e.g. soil quality), provisioning (e.g. harvest of fungi) and cultural (e.g. existence value, spiritual, educational and recreational) services‡.

Fungi: All native fungi species for which gathering is permitted in countries that have signed the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979).

Management: The application of science-based and local knowledge in the stewardship of wild fungi species and their habitats in a manner beneficial to the environment and society.

Managers: Private or governmental agents, including landowners, who are responsible for the practical stewardship of wild fungi and their habitats.

Regulators: Government authorities at all levels with a responsibility for formulating, implementing and enforcing legislation and management policies pertaining to conservation and gathering fungi.

* Derived from Article 2 of the CBD.

† Derived from Article 2 of the CBD.

‡ See

http://www.millenniumassessmenten.wikipedia.org/documents/document.765.aspx.pdf/wiki/Ecosystem_services

Stakeholders: All those with an interest or share in the conservation and sustainable use of fungi, habitats and biodiversity. These include commercial and other gatherers of fungi, landowners, managers, regulators, scientists and other conservationists with an interest in the conservation and use of biodiversity.

Sustainable use: the CBD defines sustainable use as “the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining the potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations” (CBD Article 2).

2.2 Appendix 2. [Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines](#)

Practical principle 1	Supportive policies, laws, and institutions are in place at all levels of governance and there are effective linkages between these levels.
Practical principle 2	Recognising the need for a governing framework consistent with international/ national laws, local users of biodiversity components should be sufficiently empowered and supported by rights to be responsible and accountable for use of the resources concerned.
Practical principle 3	International, national policies, laws and regulations that distort markets which contribute to habitat degradation or otherwise generate perverse incentives that undermine conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, should be identified and removed or mitigated.
Practical principle 4	Adaptive management should be practised, based on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Science and traditional and local knowledge; 2. Iterative, timely and transparent feedback derived from monitoring the use, environmental, socio-economic impacts, and the status of the resource being used; and 3. Adjusting management based on timely feedback from the monitoring procedures.
Practical principle 5	Sustainable use management goals and practices should avoid or minimise adverse impacts on ecosystem services, structure and functions as well as other components of ecosystems.
Practical principle 6	Interdisciplinary research into all aspects of the use and conservation of biological diversity should be promoted and supported.
Practical principle 7	The spatial and temporal scale of management should be compatible with the ecological and socio-economic scales of the use and its impact.
Practical principle 8	There should be arrangements for international co-operation where multinational decision-making and coordination are needed.
Practical principle 9	An interdisciplinary, participatory approach should be applied at the appropriate levels of management and governance related to the use.
Practical principle 10	International, national policies should take into account: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current and potential values derived from the use of biological diversity; 2. Intrinsic and other non-economic values of biological diversity; and 3. Market forces affecting the values and use.
Practical principle 11	Users of biodiversity components should seek to minimise waste and adverse environmental impact and optimise benefits from uses.
Practical principle 12	The needs of indigenous and local communities who live with and are affected by the use and conservation of biological diversity, along with their contributions to its conservation and sustainable use, should be reflected in the equitable distribution of the benefits from the use of those resources.
Practical principle 13	The costs of management and conservation of biological diversity should be internalised within the area of management and reflected in the distribution of the benefits from the use.
Practical principle 14	Education and public awareness programmes on conservation and sustainable use should be implemented and more effective methods of communications should be developed between and among stakeholders and managers.

2.3 Appendix 3. [Malawi Principles for the Ecosystem Approach](#)

1. Management objectives are a matter of societal choice.
2. Management should be decentralised to the lowest appropriate level.
3. Ecosystem managers should consider the effects of their activities on adjacent and other ecosystems.
4. Recognising potential gains from management there is a need to understand the ecosystem in an economic context, considering e.g., mitigating market distortions, aligning incentives to promote sustainable use, and internalising costs and benefits.
5. A key feature of the ecosystem approach includes conservation of ecosystem structure and functioning.
6. Ecosystems must be managed within the limits to their functioning.
7. The ecosystem approach should be undertaken at the appropriate scale.
8. Recognising the varying temporal scales and lag effects which characterise ecosystem processes, objectives for ecosystem management should be set for the long term.
9. Management must recognise that change is inevitable.
10. The ecosystem approach should seek the appropriate balance between conservation and use of biodiversity.
11. The ecosystem approach should consider all forms of relevant information, including scientific and indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices.
12. The ecosystem approach should involve all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines.

2.4 Appendix 4. Relationship between Fungi-gathering Charter and AAPG/Malawi Principles

Three pillars of sustainability	Addis Ababa/ Malawi	Focus	Number	Principles in this Charter	AAPG/ MALAWI MAP
Socio-cultural	Supportive & linked governance at all levels with harmonised regulations that promote societal benefits from conservation and avoid perverse effects.	General	1	Favour multi-level governance that maximises benefit for conservation and society.	(A1,A3,M2,M4)
		Regulatory and rights	2	Ensure that regulations are understandable and respected.	(A1,A8,A13, M10)
Ecological	Avoidance of adverse impacts within or between ecosystems, and of short-termism, especially when faced with inevitable change. Transparent and adaptive management along a use-protection continuum, based on interdisciplinary science, monitoring and timely feedbacks.	Demographic	3	Ensure that harvest is ecologically sustainable	(A4,A6,A9,M7-12)
		Genetics	4	Maintain wild populations of indigenous species with adaptive gene pools	(A5,A9, M11-12)
		Ecosystem services	5	Maintain environments that support healthy and robust populations of appropriate species.	(A4,A6,A9,M7-12)
Economic	Encouragement of economic/cultural incentives with sharing of benefits (and costs) especially at local level, while avoiding waste.	Economic incentives and efficiency	6	Encourage use to provide economic incentives for conservation	(A4,M10)
			7	Ensure that harvest is properly utilised and wastage avoided	(M10)
Socio-cultural, Ecological, Economic	Decentralisation of management to an appropriate bio-economic scale, especially to empower, assess and access knowledge of local users. Where possible adopt means that aim toward delegating rights, responsibility, and accountability to those who use and/or manage biological resources.	Local management	8	Empower local stakeholders and hold them accountable.	(A2,A4,A9-10,A12-13, M2,M4,M7, M11-12)
Socio-cultural	Education, awareness and inclusion of managers, resource users and society at large.	Conduct and proficiency of resources beneficiaries	9	Encourage competence and responsibility among users of wild resources	(A11,A14)
		Horizontal trust	10	Encourage co-operation between all stakeholders in management of appropriate species, associated species and their habitats.	(A2,A9,A14, M1,M12)
		Social acceptance	11	Encourage acceptance of sustainable and consumptive use as a conservation tool by the public and other conservation interests.	(A14, M1,M12)

2.5. Appendix 5. A simple model Code of Conduct for Gathering Fungi

To eat fungi is to eat at the oldest table on the Earth. The evolution of fungi diverged from animals, which are closer relatives than are plants, a billion years ago, and fungi were probably the first complex beings on land. Indeed, fungal life underpins much of what we enjoy, by recycling nutrients, enhancing the growth of plants, and as yeasts used for bread and alcohol.

You who gather wild fungi are much more common across Europe than those who enjoy wild resources through hunting or fishing. You can be very important for maintaining and rebuilding the riches of nature if you are considerate for others benefitting from fungi, and especially if you join in activities to preserve and restore the habitats which provide your enjoyment.

The Bern Convention ([Council of Europe](#)) has created a Charter for Fungi-Gathering and Biodiversity, of which this annex is a part. The Bern Convention was assisted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (www.iucn.org); the whole charter, further advice and links to useful organisations can be found at www.naturalliance.eu. As a minimum, please read and observe the following simple Code of Conduct.

Nature, people and your own long-term enjoyment will be enhanced if you:

Identify fungi: take a field guide and know the protected species as well as the toxic ones; don't pick what you cannot identify; collect species that are locally common in preference to rare ones.

Respect regulations: be aware of and respect "no picking" areas, which may be necessary where human population density is high; consult land-managers, especially at nature reserves.

Respect nature: respect the need to leave soil and leaf litter undisturbed; allow fungi to open and release spores; avoid picking of immature fruiting bodies, not picking more than can be used; leave those past their best; teach others to use these and other best practices.

Consider others: always leave some fruiting bodies for other humans (e.g. photographers and those monitoring species), for other species that need food (e.g. insects) and for fungal reproduction.

Avoid waste: don't pick more than you need; scatter trimmings where you pick; discourage others from wasteful damage to fungi, such as 'off piste' running, cycling and riding in woods where fungi are fruiting.

Pay your way: reward landowners, with thanks if not a small gift, for preserving the habitats that benefit you; if required, pay fees or make other contributions.

Help to conserve: assist with monitoring and restoring fungi and their habitats if asked; if possible, join organisations that provide guidance and organise conservation.

Appendix 11

Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 169 (2013) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2013, on the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland)

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Pointing out that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Convention calls on the Parties to give particular emphasis to endangered and vulnerable species;

Recalling that Article 3 of the Convention requires Parties to take steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild flora, wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Pointing out that, in pursuance of Article 3, paragraph 2, of the Convention, “Each Contracting Party undertakes, in its planning and development policies and in its measures against pollution, to have regard to the conservation of wild flora and fauna”;

Recalling that Article 4 of the Convention stipulates that “Each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats”;

Referring to the other provisions of the Convention relating to protection of habitats and conservation of species;

Having regard to Standing Committee’s Resolution No. 6 (1998) listing the species requiring specific habitat conservation measures;

Having regard to Resolution n° 8 (2012) on the national designation of adopted Emerald sites and the implementation of management, monitoring and reporting measures;

Having regard to the Council of the European Union’s Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) and to its Art.3 on the setting up of an European ecological network of special areas of conservation (Natura 2000 Network);

Recalling that the Doubs River, and *inter alia* its median part serving as a border between France and Switzerland, constitute an area of special conservation interest for Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*), a strictly protected species listed in Appendix II to the Bern Convention, and in Annex II of the Habitats Directive;

Approving of, and taking into consideration, the report drawn up by the expert after his on-the-spot appraisal [document T-PVS/Files (2013) 45];

Aware that the natural habitat of the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs River is continuously deteriorating and an increasing number of other protected species are seriously threatened;

Aware of the threats posed by the hydro power plants in the cross-border part of the Doubs and the “the Suisse loop” (*Châtelot, Refrain* and *La Goule*); also aware of the threats posed by wastewater treatment plants (WWTP), in particular in the canton of *Neuchâtel* (Switzerland) and the *Haut-Doubs* (France), presenting an important source of pollutants and needing urgent renewal measures;

Aware of the threats posed by existing watercourse barriers, in particular downstream of *Saint Ursanne* area (canton of Jura), obstructing the free passage of the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) and other fish species;

Aware of the threats from farm pollution which exceed the assimilation capacity of soils (*Critical load index*) affecting negatively the water quality in the Doubs river;

Taking note of the publication of the “Concept of protection of the Rhone streber” in Switzerland in 1999;

Further taking note of the results of the LIFE *Apron* programme implemented in France in 1998-2001 (LIFE *Apron I*) and 2004-2010 (LIFE *Apron II*);

Acknowledging the publication of the National Action Plan to protect the Rhone streber in France and the subsequent establishment of a bi-national governance structure for the joint management of the cross-border Doubs (including the bi-national group on flow rate management) in 2011;

Recalling the entry into force of the revised federal legislation on water protection in Switzerland in 2011;

Welcoming the launching of the “Integrated project” on the Franco-Suisse Doubs lead by Saône-Doubs territorial authorities (EPTB) in 2012;

Noting the publication of the strategic plan on recovery of fish migration in Switzerland in 2012;

Stressing the need to take the additional measures warranted by the conservation requirements of the species and to adopt a more detailed and comprehensive approach to the cross-border issue,

Recommends France and Switzerland to:

1. Improve and ensure implementation of necessary measures for the maintenance or restoration, at a favourable conservation status, of the natural habitat and the population of the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) by 2016, in the transboundary area of the Doubs in Switzerland and France as well as the Loue river in France,
2. Improve the ecological quality* of the Emerald site CH02 - *Clos du Doubs/Saint-Ursanne* and the Natura 2000 sites FR4301298 - « Vallée du Dessoubre, de la Réverotte et du Doubs and FR4301291 - *Vallée de la Loue* in relation to the apron and the other protected species for which these sites are classified, by maintaining and restoring where appropriate, features of the Doubs and Loue Rivers which are of major importance to the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) and other protected species,
3. Speed-up measures to phase out, by 2016, adverse effects of hydro power plants (*Châtelot, Refrain* and *La Goule*) on the fish habitat, according to the targets of the existing legal obligations of the Swiss Water Protection Act and the EU Water Framework Directive on minimum water flow, connectivity, bed load and surges, and in compliance with the engagements taken by the bi-national group on the flow rate management,
4. Work towards changing the management of the plants (*Châtelot, Refrain* and *La Goule*) to come under control of one single operator (instead of three separate ones at present),
5. Speed-up the implementation of legal provisions and existing plans related to water quality in the Doubs River, in particular as regards the programme of renewal of older wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) – especially in the canton of Neuchâtel (Switzerland) and in the Haut-Doubs (France) - and the measures against river eutrophication, in order to achieve good chemical status,
6. Strengthen, control of all pollutant emissions and discharges - including those resulting from farm activities - into the Doubs and Loue waters; **commission additional expertise on this issue,**

* Connectivity, water quality, minimum water flow, bed load, physico-chemical and morphodynamic characteristics

addressing all relevant sources of pollution and suggesting how to reduce or eliminate these; increase specific controls for certain higher risk pollutants on a priority basis, with progressive reduction, phasing out, and/or cessation of emissions that represent particular threats to the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) and other fish species,

7. Collect and synthesise existing knowledge on the Rhône streber (*Zingel asper*) in the Doubs and the Loue; improve the exchange of information for the purposes of proper co-ordination of research carried out in France and Switzerland, using *inter alia* knowledge and the expertise acquired through the LIFE Rhone streber programme; strengthen transboundary co-operative research and field work with a view of gaining information on the genetics of the population and defining an effective cross-border strategy on conservation of the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) and other protected species,
8. Ensure a consistent and methodologically coherent monitoring system of both the Rhône streber (*Zingel asper*) and all relevant environmental parameters that may affect its population,
9. Strengthen transboundary co-operation in coordinating activities directed towards preserving the Rhône streber (*Zingel asper*) and improvement of its habitat,
10. Report on progress on the implementation of these recommendations at every meeting of the standing committee until the apron is in favourable conservation status;

Further recommends Switzerland to:

1. As a priority, re-establish connectivity among critical habitats for Rhône streber (*Zingel asper*), in particular in the Saint-Ursanne area, *inter alia* by the speedy removal of obstacles or, if this is not legally or technically possible, the speedy establishment of effective means mitigating the impacts of the blockage of migration corridors upward and downward movements; seek solutions for restoring natural river dynamics, especially in areas concerned by private micro-production of electricity;
2. Draw-up and implement a comprehensive national action plan or other relevant measure, as appropriate, addressing all issues and involving all the recommended activities for preventing the Rhône streber (*Zingel asper*) from becoming extinct and providing for its recovery; such a plan should provide clear priorities for action and a calendar for implementation and a coordination structure; it should take into account the results of assessment of the Emerald site the CH02 - *Clos du Doubs/Saint-Ursanne* as foreseen in the calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (2011-2020) [document T-PVS/PA(2010)8]; and present it if possible, by the next Standing Committee;
3. Consult the community representatives and associations when designing and implementing the plan or other relevant measures;
4. Promote education and general information on the need to protect the Rhone streber (*Zingel asper*) and other protected species and to conserve their habitats.

Appendix 12

Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

List of Candidate Emerald Sites, nominated on 6 December 2013 by the Standing Committee

The list of sites is presented according to the site code in alfa-numerical order.

1. Summary statistics

Country	Number of Sites	Total Area (ha)
Norway	633	4296073,74

2. Norway

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000001	Øvre Pasvik Protected Areas	19351,51
NO0000002	Stabbursnes Nature Reserve	1567,87
NO0000003	Astujeaggi Nature Reserve	572,35
NO0000004	Junkerdal	69576,49
NO0000005	Børgefjell	149477,43
NO0000006	Froan	48781,60
NO0000007	Geitaknottene and Yddal	2000,47
NO0000008	Jærstrendene	1114,98
NO0000009	Nordre Øyeren	6368,58
NO0000010	Fokstumyra	9741,76
NO0000012	Stråholmen	87,09
NO0000013	Bliksvær	11390,92
NO0000014	Vegaøyen	20614,48
NO0000015	Tautra med Svaet	1395,99
NO0000016	Sandblåst/Gaustadvågen og Knarrshaugmyra	266,40
NO0000017	Geiranger-Herdalen	50077,25
NO0000018	Harøya våtmarkssystem	1684,26
NO0000019	Giske	1524,98
NO0000020	Nærøyfjorden	68382,40
NO0000021	Grudevatn	185,36
NO0000022	Reisa	88778,52
NO0000023	Femundsmarka	68661,21
NO0000024	Jotunheimen og Utladalen	147577,78
NO0000025	Søm-Ruakerkilen og Hasseltangen	149,26

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000026	Søndre Jeløy	
NO0000027	Rondane med Grimsdalen, Frydalen og Dørålen	115946,26
NO0000028	Dovre	30435,13
NO0000029	Blåfjella - Skjækerfjella	206857,18
NO0000030	Varangerhalvøya med Persfjorden-Syltefjord	183704,33
NO0000031	Rinnleiret	216,84
NO0000032	Tanamunningen	3409,14
NO0000033	Slettnes	1229,55
NO0000034	Sørkjosleira	372,98
NO0000035	Skogvoll	2565,16
NO0000036	Øvre Forra	10253,80
NO0000037	Grandefjæra	1581,59
NO0000038	Kråkvågsvaet	1352,57
NO0000039	Nesheimvann	149,06
NO0000040	Ilene	91,56
NO0000041	Kurefjorden	391,48
NO0000042	Øra	1676,16
NO0000043	Åkersvika	423,78
NO0000044	Kvisleflået og Hovdlia	5682,35
NO0000045	Dokkadeltaet	374,50
NO0000046	Hynna	6442,25
NO0000047	Flekkefjord	5426,64
NO0000048	Trillemarka	14808,66
NO0000049	Sjunkhatten	41739,09
NO0000050	Hvaler	35484,34
NO0000051	Neiden- og Munkefjord	1190,71
NO0000052	Store Sametti - Skjelvatnet	7393,42
NO0000053	Øvre Anarjokka	141430,20
NO0000054	Jav'reoaivit	3188,48
NO0000056	Øvre Dividal	78880,81
NO0000057	Glomådeltaet	594,04
NO0000059	Lomsdal-Visten og Strauman	113482,05
NO0000060	Røstøyan og Nykan	7003,28
NO0000061	Simskarmyra	509,15
NO0000062	Borgan og Frelsøy	2050,43
NO0000063	Kvaløy og Rauøy	3785,85
NO0000064	Sklinna	589,04
NO0000065	Forollhogna med seterdalene	151652,38
NO0000066	Havmyran	3871,89
NO0000067	Tekssjøen	2401,02
NO0000068	Været	3587,47
NO0000069	Midt-Smøla	5560,26

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000070	Sør-Smøla	19074,44
NO0000071	Vassgårdsvatnet og Einsetvågen/Nåsvatnet	323,38
NO0000072	Dekkjene	457,19
NO0000073	Movatna og Einevarden	548,70
NO0000074	Bjoreidalen	435,90
NO0000075	Hardangervidda med tilliggende landskapsvernområder	429830,78
NO0000076	Frafjordheiane	41345,05
NO0000077	Orrevatnet	957,71
NO0000078	Synesvarden	1357,77
NO0000079	Listastrendene	1229,04
NO0000080	Haugsjåknipen	88,67
NO0000081	Steinknapp	354,41
NO0000082	Fritzøehus	162,95
NO0000083	Sandebukta	209,90
NO0000084	Øynad'n	273,64
NO0000085	Falken	106,57
NO0000086	Brumundsjøen	820,45
NO0000087	Lavsjømyrene-Målikjølen	2528,95
NO0000088	Rønnåsmyra	159,48
NO0000089	Aurstadmåsan	75,00
NO0000090	Grenimåsan	80,27
NO0000091	Maridalen og Mellomkollen	3092,28
NO0000092	Vindflomyrene	344,32
NO0000093	Eldøya-Sletter	1323,25
NO0000094	Skinnerflo	176,56
NO0000095	Vestre Vansjø	328,57
NO0000096	Stabbursdalen	93839,47
NO0000097	Vassbotndalen	7841,91
NO0000098	Seiland	31690,85
NO0000099	Makkaurhalvøya	11698,67
NO0000100	Langfjorddalen/Laggu	2810,97
NO0000101	Barvikmyran og Blodskytodden	2666,57
NO0000102	Færdesmyra	1422,09
NO0000103	Reinøya	1276,94
NO0000104	Børselvdalen	796,19
NO0000105	Gjesværstappan	715,42
NO0000106	Komagværstranda	656,28
NO0000107	Loppa	633,00
NO0000108	Hjelmsøya	441,61
NO0000109	Børselvosen	355,72
NO0000110	Kongsøya, Helløya og Skarvholmen	114,33
NO0000111	Svartbotn	221,35

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000112	Hornøya og Reinøya	196,76
NO0000113	Sørsandfjorden	179,46
NO0000114	Reinøykalven	173,56
NO0000115	Kinaroddsandfjorden	161,65
NO0000116	Lille Kamøya	158,50
NO0000117	Adamsfjord	132,93
NO0000118	Hjelmsøysandfjorden	126,63
NO0000119	Varangerbotn	118,15
NO0000120	Vestertana	84,74
NO0000121	Nesseby	74,84
NO0000122	Vækker/Väckärä	61,90
NO0000123	Sandfjordneset	56,56
NO0000124	Risøya	1519,56
NO0000125	Sørrenangsbotn og Stormyra	419,78
NO0000126	Dankarvågvatn og Rakkfjordmyran	251,28
NO0000127	Lågmyra og Bogen	71,27
NO0000128	Ånderdalen	12486,20
NO0000129	Nord-Fugløya	2443,88
NO0000130	Målselvutløpet	1257,54
NO0000131	Breivika	962,02
NO0000132	Grindøysundet	798,52
NO0000133	Håja-Røssholmen	275,05
NO0000134	Reisautløpet	601,01
NO0000135	Lullefjellet	565,35
NO0000136	Spåkenesøra	540,29
NO0000137	Sandsvika	521,47
NO0000138	Dyngeneset	320,78
NO0000139	Vardnesmyra	270,27
NO0000140	Stongodden	188,15
NO0000141	Skibotnutløpet	175,00
NO0000142	Lomtjønnmyran	83,65
NO0000143	Nordkjosbotn	64,04
NO0000144	Tennvatn	62,46
NO0000145	Gravrok	54,25
NO0000146	Prestvatn	17,63
NO0000147	Rohkunborri	55590,89
NO0000148	Saltfjellet-Svartisen med tilliggende landskapsvernområder og naturreservat	277229,05
NO0000149	Karlsøyvær	12220,53
NO0000150	Møysalen	11858,27
NO0000151	Varnvassdalen, Favnvassdalen og Storslettmyra	3479,80
NO0000152	Strandåvassbotn og Strandå/Os	2197,85

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000153	Måstadjellet	801,71
NO0000154	Steinslandsosen og Steinslandsvatnet	642,51
NO0000155	Grottene i Rana	0,00
NO0000156	Rago	16192,56
NO0000157	Fisklausvatnet	3845,55
NO0000158	Kjølsøyværet/Valvær	1635,32
NO0000159	Spjeltfjelldalen	2977,46
NO0000160	Indreholmen/Lyngværet	2554,01
NO0000161	Eidsvatnet	1910,07
NO0000162	Engelvær	1682,94
NO0000163	Flatværet/Varkgård	1658,39
NO0000164	Støttværet	1143,61
NO0000165	Skardmodalen	954,98
NO0000166	Osen/Sandværet	906,00
NO0000167	Ulvøyværet	887,94
NO0000168	Gåsøya/Geitholmen	665,52
NO0000169	Gimsøymyrene	282,91
NO0000170	Risøysundet	503,94
NO0000171	Stø/Nyksund	479,94
NO0000172	Stor-Graddis	458,27
NO0000173	Straumøya	443,43
NO0000174	Grunnvatnet	430,40
NO0000175	Bjortjønnlimyrene	427,88
NO0000176	Fauskeidet	347,76
NO0000177	Sagvassdalen	1836,39
NO0000178	Tjeldneset	318,16
NO0000179	Kvikkleirøyran	269,57
NO0000180	Fisktjørna	269,01
NO0000181	Lilandsvatnet	238,35
NO0000182	Brunvær	233,83
NO0000183	Altervatn	221,54
NO0000184	Kjerkvatnet	215,99
NO0000185	Kjellerhaugvatnet	198,51
NO0000186	Nystadneslia	167,75
NO0000187	Straume	165,35
NO0000188	Vardøya	143,27
NO0000189	Sørmela	132,43
NO0000190	Æsholman	131,51
NO0000191	Stormyra	128,31
NO0000192	Sjøforsen	115,12
NO0000193	Høljanmyra	109,18
NO0000194	Leirvika	107,07

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000195	Tverlandet	104,55
NO0000196	Øya/Langholmen	140,55
NO0000197	Drevjaleira	105,36
NO0000198	Åsen - Kjeldalen	195,58
NO0000199	Arstadlia - Tverviknakkan	56,30
NO0000200	Fjære	69,92
NO0000201	Votnmyra	60,11
NO0000202	Børvatnet	57,99
NO0000203	Hammarnesflåget	54,86
NO0000204	Hopvasslia	54,18
NO0000205	Selnesvatnet	42,89
NO0000206	Småvatnan	40,03
NO0000207	Skeilia	39,23
NO0000208	Bleiksøya	39,32
NO0000209	Mosaksla	34,23
NO0000210	Teisdalen	21,79
NO0000211	Holmvassdalen	5993,76
NO0000212	Øyenskavlen og Tverrlimyran	4991,15
NO0000213	Flakkan	148,23
NO0000214	Kausmofjæra og Ørin	148,81
NO0000215	Lyngås-Lysgård og Lundselvoset	134,54
NO0000216	Skarvan og Roltdalen	44166,29
NO0000217	Lierne	33300,10
NO0000218	Koltjerndalen	5656,81
NO0000219	Rangeldalen	2615,25
NO0000220	Røyklibotnet	2009,45
NO0000221	Simle	4177,21
NO0000222	Storbjørhusdal	1022,06
NO0000223	Breivatnet	512,65
NO0000224	Grytbogen-Kubåsen	477,76
NO0000225	Skeisneset	425,18
NO0000226	Klingsundet	437,99
NO0000227	Ulendeltaet	269,90
NO0000228	Bergsåsen	74,84
NO0000229	Lundleiret	210,68
NO0000230	Stallvikmyran	198,10
NO0000231	Eidsbotn	194,90
NO0000232	Vinnan og Velvangen	193,54
NO0000233	Hammervatnet	46,54
NO0000234	Falstadbukta	127,70
NO0000235	Alnes	112,59
NO0000236	Tynesfjæra	106,18

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000237	Bjørnga	103,67
NO0000238	Bågåmyra	100,33
NO0000239	Vellamelen	84,56
NO0000240	Gudfjelløya	60,98
NO0000241	Okstadmyra	56,84
NO0000242	Kvitmyra	48,38
NO0000243	Vikaleiret	43,50
NO0000244	Hammeren	41,58
NO0000245	Stormyra	40,74
NO0000246	Byhalla	37,60
NO0000247	Åsnes	38,07
NO0000248	Skraptjønnfloen	34,79
NO0000249	Åsmyra	28,75
NO0000250	Aldgården	25,92
NO0000251	Hattmoenget	23,94
NO0000252	Harestranda	16,88
NO0000253	Reppesleiret	14,74
NO0000254	Måsøra-Hofstadøra	14,35
NO0000255	Rolsøya	8,75
NO0000256	Dovrefjell-Sunndalsfjella, Knutshø og tilliggende landskapsvernområder	294020,40
NO0000257	Trollheimen	129278,54
NO0000258	Gaulosen og Leinøra	251,79
NO0000259	Fitjan og Låen	29,16
NO0000260	Hildremsvatnet	2344,05
NO0000261	Bymarka	1169,30
NO0000262	Buholman	1163,97
NO0000263	Måøyen	648,04
NO0000264	Melstein	637,63
NO0000265	Stråsjøen-Prestøyen	536,60
NO0000266	Kjølen	370,86
NO0000267	Røstøya	336,48
NO0000268	Midtskogvatnet	207,04
NO0000269	Langåskjølen	201,72
NO0000270	Litlbumyran	122,76
NO0000271	Stormyra	93,77
NO0000272	Slettestjønnna	93,43
NO0000273	Momyra	67,36
NO0000274	Grønningsbukta	58,52
NO0000275	Strømmen	32,29
NO0000276	Henfallet	29,46
NO0000277	Herdalen	29,45

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000278	Vinnstormyra	27,83
NO0000279	Granøyen	27,16
NO0000280	Gammelelva	25,61
NO0000281	Rauberga	17,23
NO0000282	Lauglolia	15,52
NO0000283	Mormyra	16,42
NO0000284	Bjørnmyra	12,16
NO0000285	Rønningen	12,23
NO0000286	Runde	9329,51
NO0000287	Storevik	2132,63
NO0000288	Flø	1968,12
NO0000289	Melland og Mellandsvågen	1364,53
NO0000290	Ullasundet	1164,87
NO0000291	Grimstadvatn	1155,19
NO0000292	Surna	722,99
NO0000293	Lomundsjøen og Lomundsjømyra	109,62
NO0000294	Gule-/Stavikmyrane	814,36
NO0000295	Alstranda	468,99
NO0000296	Oppdølsstranda	436,25
NO0000297	Ørnakken	422,13
NO0000298	Kallset	252,14
NO0000299	Skorgeura	246,47
NO0000300	Aspåmyran	231,15
NO0000301	Fjørtoftneset	221,96
NO0000302	Raudnesvika	203,81
NO0000303	Bakkedalen	156,44
NO0000304	Fræneidet	141,30
NO0000305	Rogneholmen	133,37
NO0000306	Heggemsvatn/Holåvatnet	113,91
NO0000307	Blindheimsvik	113,92
NO0000308	Sandvikmyrane	111,17
NO0000309	Synesvågen	99,87
NO0000310	Nauste	92,22
NO0000311	Lauvåsen	89,61
NO0000312	Roaldsand	77,17
NO0000313	Molnes	71,41
NO0000314	Gylhamran	67,86
NO0000315	Osen	65,69
NO0000316	Hjertvika	66,31
NO0000317	Kvamsetelva	59,57
NO0000318	Hustadbukta	55,06
NO0000319	Vågstranda	54,30

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000320	Stakkengfonna	51,32
NO0000321	Småvollen	45,59
NO0000322	Sylteosen	43,04
NO0000323	Nesplassen	43,18
NO0000324	Hensøran	40,73
NO0000325	Rørvikvatnet	38,85
NO0000326	Gjelamyra	36,26
NO0000327	Todalssetra	34,95
NO0000328	Rødmyra	21,00
NO0000329	Hagset	20,80
NO0000330	Farstadbukta	19,51
NO0000331	Batnfjordsøra	20,41
NO0000332	Remman	2040,20
NO0000333	Skalmen	23,31
NO0000335	Orskjera	1073,31
NO0000336	Riste	157,62
NO0000337	Haramsøya vestside	89,70
NO0000338	Muleneset	44,95
NO0000339	Fløtjønna	20,76
NO0000340	Jostedalsbreen	134307,12
NO0000341	Hallingskarvet	45837,32
NO0000342	Ytterøyane	1701,13
NO0000343	Gåsvær	1523,32
NO0000344	Luster Allmenning	1078,83
NO0000345	Sørværet	810,96
NO0000346	Vassøyane	623,85
NO0000347	Tvinna	507,64
NO0000348	Moldvær	314,67
NO0000349	Raudøy	254,21
NO0000350	Sakrisøy	190,80
NO0000351	Flostranda	181,42
NO0000352	Grima	149,21
NO0000353	Kvernøyna	144,76
NO0000354	Askvika	134,76
NO0000355	Eldedalen	8,85
NO0000356	Sandvikseidet	102,34
NO0000357	Tungevåg	61,55
NO0000358	Osen	52,73
NO0000359	Bukta	49,35
NO0000360	Tjønnane	48,34
NO0000361	Nekkøytåa	3,91
NO0000362	Lihellene	16,24

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000363	Sætremyrane	40,23
NO0000364	Gjerlandsøyane	19,61
NO0000365	Folgefonna med tilliggende landskapsvernområder	60244,96
NO0000366	Sagvatnet	661,67
NO0000367	Gullbergnotten	335,86
NO0000368	Kvernavatnet	270,58
NO0000369	Herlandsnesjane	244,54
NO0000370	Holmedalsberget	236,27
NO0000371	Tjeldstø	105,23
NO0000372	Fedjemyrane	83,28
NO0000373	Uranes	72,95
NO0000374	Skogafjellet	63,56
NO0000375	Joberget	39,12
NO0000376	Ånuglo	28,01
NO0000377	Kvanndal	26,04
NO0000378	Vinnesleiro	24,09
NO0000379	Hystad	21,31
NO0000380	Storsøy	21,12
NO0000381	Lokna	18,61
NO0000382	Sjoalemyra	16,27
NO0000383	Bjellandsvatnet	15,62
NO0000384	Iglatjødno	15,17
NO0000385	Floget	7,83
NO0000386	Vollom	7,27
NO0000387	Vestbøstadjørna	7,08
NO0000388	Setesdal Vesthei Ryfylkeheiane	185252,90
NO0000389	Heglane og Eime	3636,85
NO0000390	Vignesholmane	1579,52
NO0000391	Førland/Sletthei og Tverrådalen	1094,04
NO0000392	Urådalen og Sæland	216,52
NO0000393	Dyraheio	30305,10
NO0000394	Longavatnet	821,99
NO0000395	Ferkingstadøyene	719,54
NO0000396	Gitlandsåsen	716,83
NO0000397	Drotninghei	625,63
NO0000398	Urter	229,44
NO0000399	Nord-Talgje	218,79
NO0000400	Eptavatnet	111,13
NO0000401	Gåsholmen og Årvikholmen	92,43
NO0000402	Norheimsøy og Lamholmen	77,45
NO0000403	Søylandsvatnet	67,34
NO0000404	Ryvingen og Klovningen	42,57

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000405	Hagavågen	34,82
NO0000406	Lonavatnet	32,11
NO0000407	Drangsdalen	33,07
NO0000408	Harvalandsvatnet	30,54
NO0000409	Kydlesvatnet	29,04
NO0000410	Smokkevatnet	25,70
NO0000411	Linborgvatnet	21,96
NO0000412	Vikaneset	20,92
NO0000413	Rabali	14,56
NO0000414	Grasholmen og Knibringen	13,56
NO0000415	Alvevatnet	11,25
NO0000416	Foreknuten	10,80
NO0000417	Oksøy-Ryvingen	10274,38
NO0000418	Skråstadheia	921,78
NO0000419	Einarvannet	329,64
NO0000420	Hanangervann og Kråkenesvann (Farsund)	257,19
NO0000421	Listeid	52,11
NO0000422	Slevdalsvann	46,45
NO0000423	Nakkestad	37,86
NO0000424	Langevann	26,90
NO0000425	Dyrlimyra	24,98
NO0000426	Kvellandsfossen	24,84
NO0000427	Sellegrad	18,50
NO0000428	Skoland	19,30
NO0000429	Loga	16,47
NO0000430	Fotskarlia	14,46
NO0000431	Knebeknuten	11,85
NO0000432	Lykkjevatn	8,31
NO0000433	Hovden-Vidmyr	6860,04
NO0000434	Raet og Tromlingene	2266,90
NO0000435	Navassfjell	280,21
NO0000436	Skiftenes	70,95
NO0000437	Materialen	26,47
NO0000438	Lindalen	16,48
NO0000439	Fjosbumyra	13,00
NO0000440	Frierflogene-Dammane	79,28
NO0000441	Jomfruland	53,45
NO0000442	Jønjljo	462,04
NO0000443	Rønnoaldalen	270,88
NO0000444	Heddedalane	179,65
NO0000445	Bjønntjenn	176,34
NO0000446	Nautesund	148,71

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000447	Årnesbukta	137,85
NO0000448	Skultrevassåsen	102,83
NO0000449	Bøen	312,43
NO0000450	Semsøyene	69,37
NO0000451	Vikfjell	47,02
NO0000452	Stavsholtmyrane	28,99
NO0000453	Sandviki	24,27
NO0000454	Skadden	37,25
NO0000455	Burøytjern	9,73
NO0000456	Vinjekilen	4,54
NO0000457	Ormø-Færder	11723,67
NO0000458	Mølen	648,95
NO0000459	Buvika/Rødskjær og Bastøy	399,97
NO0000460	Kommersøya og Gåserumpa	10,46
NO0000461	Grunnane	289,09
NO0000462	Jordstøyp	84,50
NO0000463	Malmøya	71,03
NO0000464	Bogen	58,14
NO0000465	Middagskollen	54,85
NO0000466	Adalstjern	37,35
NO0000467	Hemskilen	32,61
NO0000468	Mulåsen	21,51
NO0000469	Brånakollene	19,01
NO0000470	Napperødtjern	15,55
NO0000471	Kinnhalvøya	12,13
NO0000472	Breimyr	10,50
NO0000473	Løvøya	7,57
NO0000474	Høymyr	5,15
NO0000475	Vassfaret og Vidalen	26423,50
NO0000476	Gjellebekkmyrene og Tranby	50,75
NO0000477	Ultvedttjern	55,52
NO0000478	Sandågrota, Sandågelet, Krona	7,37
NO0000479	Spålen-Katnosa	1849,91
NO0000480	Tyrifjorden	512,08
NO0000481	Veikulåsen	467,58
NO0000482	Oppkuven - Smeddalen	410,50
NO0000483	Nedre Flyvatn	300,14
NO0000484	Strykenåsen	208,42
NO0000485	Lyseren	192,67
NO0000486	Mørkgonga	156,49
NO0000487	Grothovdmyran	147,32
NO0000488	Averøya	106,96

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000489	Bremsåsen	87,71
NO0000490	Karlsruadtangen	86,69
NO0000491	Tverrbergkastet	78,19
NO0000492	Solbergfjellet	68,96
NO0000493	Linnesstranda	57,44
NO0000494	Solevatn	53,80
NO0000495	Synneren	50,32
NO0000496	Juveren	44,21
NO0000497	Asdøljuvet	39,14
NO0000498	Lamyra	33,71
NO0000499	Holtnesdalen	26,18
NO0000500	Tronstad	10,49
NO0000501	Søndre Hørtekollen	10,41
NO0000502	Mysutjernene	9,73
NO0000503	Smådaladn og Hydalen	6673,01
NO0000504	Langsua	53832,94
NO0000505	Lågendeltaet	787,81
NO0000506	Stuttgonglia, Birisjølia og Styggemyra	747,84
NO0000507	Imsdalen	4063,11
NO0000508	Helin plantepark	2875,83
NO0000509	Djupåa og Grøtåshaugen	1378,30
NO0000511	Saltstutlia	915,09
NO0000512	Smådalsvatni	595,16
NO0000513	Torsæterkampen	469,52
NO0000514	Fåvang	383,19
NO0000515	Sanddalstjedn	295,63
NO0000516	Berdøla	245,51
NO0000517	Hundorp	162,24
NO0000518	Rolla	139,41
NO0000519	Øytjernet	134,96
NO0000520	Haukskardmyrin	110,94
NO0000521	Evjemyra	109,00
NO0000522	Nordåa-Søråa	105,42
NO0000523	Flåmyra	98,92
NO0000524	Liadalane	89,42
NO0000525	Svennesvollene	71,26
NO0000526	Helgetjønn	43,04
NO0000527	Dokka	29,10
NO0000528	Tjørnsmyra	22,92
NO0000529	Uri	16,94
NO0000530	Bårdsengbekken	17,27
NO0000531	Stormyra	13,19

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000532	Eriksrud	1,91
NO0000533	Skjeftkjølen og Rysjøen	892,65
NO0000534	Osdalssjøhøgda	4815,23
NO0000535	Gutulia	2256,26
NO0000536	Nekmyrene	1873,90
NO0000537	Lille Sølensjø	1713,53
NO0000538	Fugglia	5278,70
NO0000539	Volaberget og Kvemskjølen	1642,52
NO0000540	Osdalen	1334,03
NO0000541	Atnoset	609,33
NO0000542	Tufsingdeltaet	894,57
NO0000543	Harasjømyrene	889,07
NO0000544	Klekkefjellet	873,33
NO0000545	Ulvåkjølen	744,74
NO0000546	Hesjemarka	666,23
NO0000547	Tanarkjølen	612,18
NO0000548	Røtkjølen	538,20
NO0000549	Galtsjøen	537,87
NO0000551	Meløyfloen	510,44
NO0000552	Endelausmyrene	505,04
NO0000553	Særkilampi	478,51
NO0000554	Gjesåssjøen	417,43
NO0000555	Seimsjøen	322,67
NO0000556	Sørsjøen	304,88
NO0000557	Galådalen	295,65
NO0000558	Nygårdsmyra	263,38
NO0000559	Stormyra	231,31
NO0000560	Vesle Rokosjøen	198,67
NO0000561	Storfloen	194,21
NO0000562	Storflotjønna	192,30
NO0000563	Glorvikmyra	149,50
NO0000564	Olafloen	144,01
NO0000565	Gardsjøen	130,86
NO0000566	Kyndalsmyrene	127,52
NO0000567	Rangkløvhammeren	103,45
NO0000568	Langmyra	93,51
NO0000569	Bergesjøen	81,28
NO0000570	Jukulen	67,19
NO0000571	Kløvstadhøgda	61,19
NO0000572	Kvannbekken	25,42
NO0000573	Hårrenna	22,93
NO0000574	Skaugumåsen, Semsvannet og Hagahogget	700,87

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000575	Kolsås/Dælivann	616,60
NO0000576	Blankvann og Lørensetertjern	375,05
NO0000577	Kjaglidalen og Isi	331,28
NO0000578	Malmøya	51,38
NO0000579	Hovedøya	61,74
NO0000580	Østmarka	1782,13
NO0000581	Vorma	733,33
NO0000582	Jøndalsåsen med flere tjern og vann	333,52
NO0000583	Hølvatn	559,22
NO0000584	Skotjernfjellet	209,30
NO0000585	Rundkollen	185,72
NO0000586	Oust	5,79
NO0000587	Storfelten	118,10
NO0000588	Midtfjellmosen	92,98
NO0000589	Nærevann	82,95
NO0000590	Kallakmosen	76,58
NO0000591	Breimosen	73,06
NO0000592	Sislemyrene	67,93
NO0000593	Fagermosen	67,68
NO0000594	Nesøytjern	50,07
NO0000595	Ramsåsen	44,93
NO0000596	Gressholmen-Rambergøya	44,95
NO0000597	Bergsjø-Hølandselva	44,31
NO0000598	Storøykilen	14,63
NO0000599	Slåttmyra	11,65
NO0000600	Koksabukta	19,66
NO0000601	Rullestadtertjern	9,78
NO0000602	Lindøya	9,69
NO0000603	Ekebergskråningen	5,65
NO0000604	Borøya	0,04
NO0000605	Torvøya og Bjerkholmen	26,63
NO0000606	Bjerkås	21,39
NO0000607	Hengsåsen	16,70
NO0000608	Heggholmen	8,30
NO0000609	Lilleøya	7,21
NO0000610	Vendelholmene	5,52
NO0000611	Husbergøya	5,17
NO0000612	Padda	1,56
NO0000613	Ågårdselva og Valbrekke	27,94
NO0000614	Lundsneset	2236,91
NO0000615	Vestfjella	569,73
NO0000616	Tjøstøl	392,41

Site code	Site name	Area covered (ha)
NO0000617	Lysakermoa	160,39
NO0000618	Storesand	132,42
NO0000619	Gjølsjøen	119,79
NO0000620	Kråkerøy-skjærgården	429,80
NO0000621	Moskjæra	98,45
NO0000622	Hæra	92,56
NO0000623	Bøensmosen og Berbymosen	84,88
NO0000624	Kråkstadfjorden	74,13
NO0000625	Gulltjernmosen	73,60
NO0000626	Bredmosen	66,05
NO0000627	Berg	62,45
NO0000628	Tranemosen	57,41
NO0000629	Skårakilen	37,58
NO0000630	Rambergbukta	37,20
NO0000631	Svenken	36,01
NO0000632	Langmyra	34,68
NO0000633	Hansemakerkilen	24,68
NO0000634	Stordamsmyra	19,15
NO0000635	Spernesmosen	18,12
NO0000636	Langrasta	14,81
NO0000637	Kajalunden	6,18
NO0000638	Revlingen	14,01
NO0000639	Gåseskjæra	12,81

Appendix 13

Bern Convention Programme of Activities for 2014					
					Euros
		Ordinary Budget available			408 000
		Total Programme costs			639 613
		Total Extra funds needed			231 613
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
1. Statutory bodies			49 544	30 673	18 871
Meeting of the Standing Committee (4 days)			39 144	20 273	18 871
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (average: 16 experts*5 per diem)</i>	80	175	14 000	10 000	4 000
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	16	470	7 520	3 500	4 020
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	8	2 203	17 624	6 773	10 851
1st Meeting of the Bureau (1 day)			5 200	5 200	0
<i>Travel and subsistence of Bureau Members (5 experts*1,5 per diem)</i>	8	650	5 200	0	0
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	pm	pm	pm		
2nd Meeting of the Bureau (1 day)			5 200	5 200	0
<i>Travel and subsistence of Bureau Members (5 experts*1,5 per diem)</i>	8	650	5 200	0	0
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	pm	pm	pm		

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
2. Monitoring and assistance to Parties			75 485	50 995	24 490
<i>Implementation of Article 6</i>					
Group of Experts on Climate Change (1,5 days)			13 075	13 075	0
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	10	470	4 700	4 700	0
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (10 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	25	175	4 375	4 375	0
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4 000	4 000	0
Select Group on Illegal killing of birds (1 day)			10 560	8 510	2 050
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	8	470	3 760	3 760	0
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (8 experts*2 per diem)</i>	16	175	2 800	2 000	800
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4 000	2 750	1 250
Implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020			11 260	8 490	2 770
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	8	470	3 760	3 760	0
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (8 experts *2,5 per diem)</i>	20	175	3 500	3 500	0
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4 000	1 230	2 770
Technical support on the conservation of Large Carnivores in Ukraine, Poland and the Slovak Republic (2 days)			10 000	4 000	6 000
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	0	10 000	4000	6000
Select Group on IAS (1 day)			8 920	8 900	0
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	6	470	2 820	2 820	0
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (6 experts*2 per diem)</i>	12	175	2 100	2 100	0
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4 000	4 000	0

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
Capacity building on IAS management			8 000	8 000	0
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	0	8 000	8000	0
Setting-up of the online reporting system			13 670	0	13 670
<i>Lumpsum</i>			13 670	0	13 670
<i>Assessment analysis of reporting</i>			p.m.	0	p.m.
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
3. Conservation of Natural Habitats			93 034	28 780	64 254
Group of experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks (1,5 days)			23 706	19 450	4 254
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	12	470	5 640	5 240	440
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (12 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	30	175	5 250	5 250	0
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4 000	2 000	2 000
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	4	2 204	8 816	7 000	1 816
Emerald Pilot project in Tunisia			20 000	0	20 000
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	20 000	20 000	0	
2nd Emerald Pilot project in Morocco			40 000	0	40 000
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	40 000	40 000	0	
Group of Specialists on the EDPA (1 day)			9 328	9 330	0
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	6	470	2 820	2 820	0
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (6 experts*2)</i>	12	175	2 100	2 100	0
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	2	2 204	4 408	4 410	0

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
4. Implementation of Article 3			20 000	3 000	17 000
Capacity building and/or awareness on the biodiversity advantage			20 000	3 000	17 000
<i>Lumpsum (training and consultancy)</i>	1	12 000	12 000	3 000	9 000
<i>Management of website (lumpsum)</i>	1	4 000	4 000	0	4 000
<i>electronic publications (lumpsum)</i>	1	4 000	4 000	0	4 000
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
5. Monitoring of and advise on sites at risk			33 950	33 950	0
<i>Travels Experts</i>	10	470	4 700	4 700	0
<i>Subsistence Experts</i>	30	175	5 250	5 250	0
<i>Consultancy/AA</i>	12	2 000	24 000	24 000	0
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
6. Official Journeys of staff			24 000	24 000	0
<i>Travel and subsistence</i>	16	1 500	24 000	24 000	0
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
7. Provision for the Chair			3 000	3 000	0
<i>Travel and subsistence expenses (lumpsum)</i>	1	3 000	3 000	3 000	0
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
8. Overheads			35 600	35 600	0
<i>Printing Internal</i>	110 000	0,03	3 300	3 300	0
<i>Postage (Lumpsum)</i>	1	400	400	400	0
<i>Prepress (lumpsum)</i>	1	2 500	2 500	2 500	0
<i>Translation Services</i>	895	32,85	29 400	29 400	0
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
9. Staff costs			305 000	198 000	107 000
Permanent staff and office costs	lumpsum		198 000	198 000	0
Temporary staff and office costs	lumpsum		107 000	0	107 000

The Bern Convention Special Account will be used to cover expenses that cannot be covered by the Ordinary Budget of the Council of Europe.

The activities that will not receive additional contributions will not or partially be implemented.

The Council of Europe is expected to provide around € 408,000 in 2014 (€ 210,000 for financing the programme of activities including overheads, and € 198,000 for staff and high level management costs).

TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

	Meeting	Date	Place
1	Select Group on IAS	Early March	Rome (Italy)
2	Group of Specialists on the European Diploma	21 March	Strasbourg
3	1 st meeting of the Bureau	4 April	Strasbourg
4	Select Group Illegal Killing Birds	19 May	
5	Group of Experts on Climate Change	19 - 20 June	Strasbourg
6	2 nd meeting of the Bureau	10 September	Strasbourg
7	Group of Experts on Protected areas	11-12 September	Strasbourg
8	Standing Committee meeting	2-5 December	Strasbourg

Bern Convention Provisional Programme of Activities for 2015					
					Euros
		Ordinary Budget available			406 000
		Total Programme costs			621 180
		Total Funds needed			215 180
Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
1. Statutory bodies			49 544	30 750	18 794
Meeting of the Standing Committee (4 days)			39 144	20 350	18 794
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (average: 16 experts*5 per diem)</i>	80	175	14 000	10 000	4 000
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	16	470	7 520	3 577	3 943
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	8	2 203	17 624	6 773	10 851
1st Meeting of the Bureau (1 day)			5 200	5 200	0
<i>Travel and subsistence of Bureau Members (5 experts*1,5 per diem)</i>	8	650	5 200	5 200	0
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	pm	pm	pm		
2nd Meeting of the Bureau (1 day)			5 200	5 200	0
<i>Travel and subsistence of Bureau Members (5 experts*1,5 per diem)</i>	8	650	5 200	5 200	0
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	pm	pm	pm		

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
2. Monitoring and assistance to Parties			62 150	47 000	15 150
<i>Implementation of Article 6</i>					
Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles (1,5 days)			11 260	11 260	0
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	8	470	3 760		
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (8 experts*2,5 per diem)</i>	20	175	3 500		
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4 000		
Group of Experts on the conservation of birds (2 days)			19 930	13 340	6 590
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	14	470	6 580		
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (14 experts*3 per diem)</i>	42	175	7 350		
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	6 000	6 000		
Group of Experts on the conservation of invertebrates (2 days)					
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	10	470	pm	pm	pm
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (10 experts*3 per diem)</i>	30	175	pm	pm	pm
Technical support on the conservation of Large Herbivores in Belarus (2 days)			5 000	5 000	0
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	0	5 000		
Capacity building on Large Carnivores (Poland, Slovak Republic, Ukraine)			10 000	4 000	6 000
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	0	10 000	4000	6000

Group of Experts on IAS (2 days)			15 960	13 400	2 560
<i>Travel expenses of Delegates/Experts</i>	8	470	3 760		
<i>Subsistence of Delegates/Experts (8 experts*3)</i>	24	175	4 200		
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	2	4 000	8 000		

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
3. Conservation of Natural Habitats			83 034	30 800	52 234
Group of experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks (1,5 days)			23 706	21 473	2 233
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	12	470	5 640		
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (12 experts*2,5)</i>	30	175	5 250		
<i>Consultancy/technical reports</i>	1	4 000	4 000		
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	4	2 204	8 816		
Emerald Pilot project in Tunisia			30 000	0	30 000
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	30 000	30 000		
2nd Emerald Pilot project in Morocco			20 000	0	20 000
<i>Lumpsum</i>	1	20 000	20 000		
Group of Specialists on the EDPA			9 328	9 328	0
<i>Travel expenses of Chair/Delegates/Experts</i>	6	470	2 820		
<i>Subsistence of Chair/Delegates/Experts (6 experts*2 per diem)</i>	12	175	2 100		
<i>Interpretation Services</i>	2	2 204	4 408		

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
4. Implementation of Article 3			25 000	3 000	22 000
Capacity building and/or awareness on the biodiversity advantage			25 000	3 000	22 000
<i>Lumpsum (training and consultancy)</i>	1	15 000	15 000	3 000	12 000
<i>Management of website (lumpsum)</i>	1	6 000	6 000	0	6 000
<i>electronic publications (lumpsum)</i>	1	4 000	4 000	0	4 000

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
5. Monitoring of and advise on sites at risk			33 950	33 950	0
<i>Travels Experts</i>	10	470	4 700	4 700	0
<i>Subsistence Experts</i>	30	175	5 250	5 250	0
<i>Consultancy/AA</i>	12	2 000	24 000	24 000	0
					0

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
6. Official Journeys of staff			24 000	24 000	0
<i>Travel and subsistence</i>	16	1 500	24 000		0

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
7. Provision for the Chair			3 000	3 000	0
<i>Travel and subsistence expenses (lumpsum)</i>	1	3 000	3 000		0

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
8. Overheads			35 500	35 500	0
<i>Printing Internal</i>	110 000	0,03	3 300	3 300	0
<i>Postage (Lumpsum)</i>	1	400	400	400	0
<i>Prepress (lumpsum)</i>	1	2 500	2 500	2 500	0
<i>Translation Services</i>	892	32,85	29 300	29 300	0

Expenditure	# Units	Unit cost	Total cost	Total available	Funds needed
9. Staff costs			305 000	198 000	107 000
Permanent staff and office costs	lumpsum		198 000	198 000	0
Temporary staff and office costs	lumpsum		107 000	0	107 000

The Bern Convention Special Account will be used to cover expenses that cannot be covered by the ordinary budget of the Council of Europe.

The activities that will not receive additional contributions will not or partially be implemented.

The Council of Europe is expected to provide around € 406,000 in 2015 (€ 208,000 for financing the programme of activities including overheads, and € 198,000 for staff and high level management costs).

Appendix 14

**Voluntary contributions to the Bern Convention
received for 2013 budget
(in alphabetical order)**

	Announced	Received
Belgium (Wallon Region)		5,000 €
Bulgaria		5,000 €
EU		19,000 €
Finland		5,000 €
France		50,000 €
Italy		14,460 €
Lithuania		1,000 €
Monaco	8,000 €	
Norway		20,000 €
Norway	5,000 €	
Serbia		2,000 €
Slovak Republic		2,000 €
Switzerland		64,593.39 €
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 70%;"></div> <div style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">13,000 €</div> <div style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">188 053,39 €</div> </div>		