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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

34<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2014

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**8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Group of Experts on Biodiversity  
and Climate Change**

Strasbourg, 19 June 2014

**- MEETING REPORT -**

*Secretariat Memorandum  
prepared by  
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report and conclusions of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts;
- Hold a discussion on the Parties' expectations from the Group of Experts, as well as on their needs in terms of support, assistance and guidance on biodiversity and climate change related issues;
- Confirm, where appropriate, the Parties' commitment and support to the future work of the Group of Experts;
- Foresee, in 2015 or 2016 at latest, a one-day meeting of a restricted working group made-up of volunteering Parties, entrusted with the task of preparing a new work-plan for the future work of the Group of Experts.

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## 1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair

Ms Ivana d'Alessandro, Head of the Biodiversity Unit, opened the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts welcoming the participants as well as the speakers whom accepted the invitation of the Secretariat (a list of participants is included in Appendix 2).

## 2. Election of the Chair

Ms d'Alessandro recalled that at its last meeting, in October 2012, the Group of Experts was obliged to report the agenda item related to the election of the Chair until its next meeting. She further informed about the application of Ms Hasmik Ghalachyan, delegate of Armenia, to the position of Chair and invited the participants to proceed to the election.

Ms Hasmik Ghalachyan was elected by consensus. Her mandate will expire at the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Group of Experts.

## 3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair welcomed the participants and introduced the draft agenda, particularly thanking the speakers for their contribution to the meeting. The agenda was adopted without amendments.

## 4. Introduction by the Secretariat

The Secretariat recalled the mandate of the Group of Experts, as described in [Recommendation No. 122 \(2006\) on the conservation of biological diversity in a context of climate change](#). According to it, the Group of Experts should promote information exchange, provide information and guidance to Parties on understanding the impact and threats of climate change, as well as tools and support in developing appropriate adaptation measures in national policies regarding the species and habitats protected under the Convention.

Moreover, the Secretariat reminded that the Appendix to Recommendation No. 122 (2006) contains the terms of reference for the work of the Group of Experts. These were prepared in 2007 by a Select Group of Experts on Climate Change, composed by delegates of contracting parties participating on a voluntary basis. The terms of reference include the definition of the scope of the work of the Group of Experts, its composition, the methodology and the timeframe for its action. Following this mandate, the Group of Experts held 7 meetings and produced a number of specific technical reports; moreover, it forwarded to the Standing Committee for examination and possible adoption ten comprehensive draft recommendations.

The Secretariat referred to document [T-PVS/Inf \(2014\) 12](#) which provides a summary overview of the work carried out by the Group of Experts since its setting-up. Moreover, the Secretariat briefly recalled the outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Group, including two draft recommendations which were adopted with minor amendments by the Standing Committee at its 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting. In addition, the Secretariat recalled that the last meeting also served for carrying out for the first time the monitoring of the implementation of the Recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee. The conclusions of the assessment report [document [T-PVS/Inf \(2012\) 11](#)] were not necessarily positive, as they identified important gaps in the implementation of some of the areas covered by the recommendations; however, the independent experts who prepared the assessment report recognised that the information submitted by the Parties did not always reflect the multiple initiatives and efforts put in place at national level.

The Secretariat concluded by presenting the objectives of the meeting which should concentrate on analysing the impact of the work carried out by the Group of Experts so far, the continued relevance of its mandate, the completion or not of its work-plan, and the proposals for its future work.

## 5. Updates on biodiversity/climate change work in other fora

*NB: All presentations are available for download on the [meeting's website](#).*

### 5.1 The EU Adaptation Strategy

The Secretariat presented the EU Adaptation Strategy on behalf of the European Commission, after the apologies of Ms Karin Zaunberger, Delegate of the European Union. The Strategy was

adopted in April 2013 to complete the activities carried out by EU Member States by promoting greater coordination and information-sharing, and by ensuring that adaptation considerations are addressed in all relevant EU policies. In the implementation of the Adaptation Strategy, the Commission will use multi-annual work programmes to define strategic goals and thematic priorities. Priority will be given to adaptation flagship projects that address key cross-sectoral, trans-regional and/or cross-border issues. Projects with demonstration and transferability potential will be encouraged, as will green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, and projects aiming to promote innovative adaptation technologies.

The presentation continued with an introduction to the concept of Green Infrastructure, a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services. As stated in the Communication issued in May 2013 by the European Commission on “Green Infrastructure (GI) — Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital (May 2013)”, Green Infrastructure uses biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy and may have a key role in helping people to adapt to or mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

Finally, the presentation suggested a positive reading of the challenges posed by climate change, which should be addressed by investing in ecosystem-based approaches, green infrastructure, and enhancing green economy and sustainable development.

## **5.2 IPCC WGII Report "Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability"**

Dr Josef Settele, coordinating lead author of Chapter 4 of the IPCC WGII report on “Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability”, presented the Working Group II (WGII) contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) as well as its core messages related to the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and the natural environment.

The report details the impacts of climate change to date, the future risks from a changing climate, and the opportunities for effective action to reduce risks. A total of 309 coordinating lead authors, lead authors, and review editors, drawn from 70 countries, were selected to produce the report. They enlisted the help of 436 contributing authors, and a total of 1,729 expert and government reviewers. The report concludes that responding to climate change involves making choices about risks in a changing world. The nature of the risks of climate change is increasingly clear, though climate change will also continue to produce surprises. The report identifies vulnerable people, industries, and ecosystems around the world. It finds that risk from a changing climate comes from vulnerability (lack of preparedness) and exposure (people or assets in harm’s way) overlapping with hazards (triggering climate events or trends). Each of these three components can be a target for smart actions to decrease risk.

Answering to a question asked by the representative of the European Environment Agency, Dr Settele explained in details the methodology used for drafting the report and for peer-reviewing the data on which the report is based.

The Chair thanked Dr Settele for the interesting presentation noting that he already contributed to past meetings of the Group of Experts on Climate Change under the Bern Convention.

## **5.3 CMS Draft Programme of Work on combating the effects of climate change on migratory animals**

Mr Colin Galbraith, CMS appointed Councillor for climate change, presented CMS current work on this topic, with an emphasis on the Draft Programme of Work which has been elaborated to addressing the effects of climate change on migratory animals. The latter will be examined for possible adoption by the Parties to the CMS at their next Conference of the Parties, taking place on 4-9 November 2014 in Ecuador.

Mr Galbraith explained that, while there are wider negotiations on climate change, the CMS is the only global agreement which specifically targets migratory species and which could thus adequately address the issue of the impact of climate change on these, as well as bring relevant matters to the attention of the governments of the Parties and other organisations. In fact, Climate Change has been tackled by the CMS since 1997, when a Scientific Council Working Group was set up to investigate the issue and make proposals to the Parties. Since then, three dedicated Resolutions have been adopted to identify the most threatened species among those protected under the CMS, set research priorities, identify adaptation and mitigation actions, promote cooperation and implementation. This year, a Technical Workshop was organised to prepare a sound and comprehensive “Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species” which could orient the work of the Parties and identify and prioritise options for future research, as well as actions to improve the adaptive capacity of migratory species.

Mr Galbraith recognised that science is moving rapidly and that adaptation is still at the centre of climate change investigation and debates. However, there is still the need to further explore and take into consideration the linkages between climate change and other environmental issues, and to properly consider the multiple effects of climate change on the ecosystems, including through understanding the different interactions between physical, biological and chemical processes.

In the implementation of its dedicated Programme of Work, in case it is adopted by the Parties, the CMS will have to be critical in the analysis of the information available in the scientific studies, but also well prepared to take both action and risks in exploring new patterns. Although the CMS aims at having a leadership on climate change and migratory species related issues, it will certainly benefit from the cooperation of other international instruments, among which the Bern Convention could have a prominent place. Partnership and cooperation at the global level, but also and particularly at the level of the government, will be a key issue to overcome the problem of the resources, which the implementation of the plan will surely need.

Finally, major efforts should be devoted to improving the communication between science and policy, which is still a big obstacle to resources mobilisation and effective implementation of prioritised actions.

The Chair thanked Mr Galbraith for his presentation and emphasised on the opportunities for cooperation between the CMS and the Bern Convention, also in light of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed by both in 2011.

#### **5.4 Reducing the impact of climate change on birds: the contribution of the RSPB**

Dr Olly Watts, senior climate change policy officer at the RSPB, gave an overview of RSPB work on addressing climate change in RSPB nature reserves, as well as on the methodology used for assessing the different species adaptation needs.

Following the adoption in 2011 of the so-called “Saving Nature Strategy to 2020”, the RSPB started embedding climate change adaptation across its nature conservation activities and has worked on preparing adaptation strategies in its nature reserves’ management planning. The RSPB is working towards having adaptation strategies in place across all its conservation work by the end of 2015.

These strategies are species focused yet also based on understanding the change to habitats and land management, so as to prepare and reduce, as much as possible, exposure to vulnerabilities, risks and surprises, and develop appropriate management for conservation in changing conditions.

Dr Watts further presented in detail the methodology and tools used in the RSPB approach to adaptation, which is based on eight steps for predicting, monitoring and understanding the change, assessing the needs, and developing the necessary actions to enable nature conservation policies, strategies and actions to successfully respond to the change. A non-technical adaptation assessment framework and workshop format has been prepared to collect standardised data and summary reports directly from the stakeholder discussions of any conservation interest; there is a current focus on the RSPB’s landscape scale projects. The framework is straightforward to use and makes it possible to identify key adaptation issues in each of the areas analysed.

Concerning the key actions to be carried out in its nature reserves, RSPB has identified the extension of the existing sites, the defence of the coastal sites until sufficient replacement habitat has

been created, the creation of new areas of habitat and, where appropriate, the translocation of some immobile species.

Dr Watts concluded his presentation by providing several examples of adaptive management in different RSPB nature reserves.

The Chair thanked Dr Watts for the comprehensive presentation which addressed very specific topics putting forward examples of successful practices.

### **5.5 Council of Europe's Conference of INGOs: the work of the Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee**

Ms Edith Wenger, Chair of the Council of Europe's INGO Climate Change Working Group, presented the work of the WG mainly focussed at investigating and highlighting the links between climate change challenges and fundamental rights. In fact, some of the rights to which the European Convention of Human Rights grants protection (eg. right to life, the right to dignity and decent living conditions, the right to health) may be negatively affected by changing climatic conditions.

INGOs having participatory status at the Council of Europe consider it indispensable to bring preventive responses to potential or expected effects of climate change in view of avoiding or mitigating possible violation of human rights. They therefore advocate for international cooperation and coordination to ensure the preservation of the environment and of its biodiversity, also as a way to ensure human well-being.

The Climate Change Working Group under the INGOs Conference has prepared a series of recommendations to the attention of both the UN and the Council of Europe. These mainly focus at encouraging governments and other institutions to anticipate the effects of climate change through the adaptation of the lands, the sustainable use of natural resources and the evolution of economic activities. Furthermore, the INGOs Conference requests that increased efforts are devoted to the preservation of healthy ecosystems and that green infrastructures are systematically integrated in spatial planning and sector-based policies.

Ms Wenger's presentation stimulated questions on the place that environmental issues have in the framework of the INGOs Conference, the cooperation with other Council of Europe's Institutions (Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, for instance) and the challenges ahead.

Mr Galbraith noted that the Ministries of Environment of contracting Parties do often face problems in mobilising resources to be devoted to climate change related issues, as well as in raising the interest of other ministries on subjects related to environment in general. He suggested that the approach of the INGO Conference, consisting in linking climate change and human rights, could provide additional arguments for improving the understanding and co-operation between different governmental departments. He also noted the key role of NGOs in giving voice to the concern of the scientists with a different and more easy-to-understand language.

The Chair thanked Ms Wenger and the participants for the interesting debate.

### **5.6 Towards Guidelines on the management of Emerald sites in the context of Climate Change**

Ms Iva Obretenova, responsible of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks under the Bern Convention, gave a short presentation of the a draft guidance document concerning the management of Emerald sites in the light of climate change. The document targets Contracting Parties and Observer states working on the setting-up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI) and presents a step-by-step approach to planning and deciding on the most suitable management measures to be put in place for each Emerald site. The work on the guidance document was launched at the initiative of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, in consultation with the Group of Experts on Climate Change, in order to provide an early response to the challenges that the managers of Emerald sites will face because of climate change. The document thus provides recommendations and practical advices on how climate change mitigation and adaptation can be integrated in the management of Emerald sites, already in the

planning phase. The timing for the drafting of the document was considered perfect taking into account that the Emerald Network is in its establishment phase and that management measures for the Emerald sites will have to be adopted in the near future.

The second draft version, prepared in 2013, is currently being reviewed. Contracting Parties to the Convention welcomed the flexible approach adopted by the document – letting each Contracting Party choose how to use them according to its specific needs. However, it was requested that the document is further revised in order to lighten its format and include more information on the Emerald Network and possibly boxes with good practices and examples.

## **6. Reports from Parties on the implementation of the relevant Standing Committee Recommendations since the last meeting (October 2012)**

The Secretariat informed about the compilation of national reports (see Appendix 3 to this report) prepared for the meeting, including reports from 10 Contracting Parties.

The Delegates of Armenia, Norway and Switzerland presented their national reports to the participants. The Secretariat summarised the content of the other reports received.

The Delegate of Ukraine informed that the written report would be submitted soon and gave an oral presentation of the main activities carried out by her country in support of the ecology policy of the Ministry of the environment. Strong efforts concern the enlargement of the surface of Protected Areas, including the progress in the setting-up of the Emerald Network. Integration of climate change in the management of Protected Areas is an issue to which the government is devoting special attention, by working also in cooperation with NGOs and local communities. Projects addressing adaptation and mitigation in steppe ecoregions are carried out in three Oblasts. Restoration of steppe areas is also carried out through pilot projects targeting pilot areas. Thanks to EU grants, the government will also work on improving communication on best management practices, putting forward examples of good practices which can be of inspiration for other managers as well as encourage citizens and local communities to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and promote understanding of the benefits deriving from healthy ecosystems.

The Secretariat reminded that Parties could still submit their reports in electronic format by **24 October 2014**.

Moreover, at the request of the Secretariat, the representative of Natural England was invited to present Natural England's contribution to the implementation of the UK National Adaptation Programme.

In fact, the National Adaptation Programme (NAP) is the UK government's answer to the challenges posed by climate change, and provides tools for addressing species conservation in the light of climate change. The aims of the NAP consist in building ecological resilience to the impacts of climate change, preparing for and accommodating to inevitable change, valuing the wider adaptation benefits that the natural environment can deliver, and improving the evidence base. The latter was identified since the beginning as one of the major challenges. Moreover, the UK devoted a lot of energy to understanding what the consequences of climate change are for the country –at both the short and the long term -, what impact it would have on the species, what is the influence of the landscape variables and how to properly design the ecological networks accordingly.

Collecting sound and thorough evidence base has been considered by the authorities as a key element for taking informed decisions.

A manual on climate change adaptation has also been prepared for protected areas' managers, who are confronted with climate change in their daily work.

## **7. Examples of the concrete implementation of the Convention's recommendations**

### **➤ Climate change risks and impacts' assessment in the Emerald Network sites of Armenia**

The Delegate of Armenia presented the climate change risks' assessment carried out in 2013 for Emerald Network's sites, whose results and recommendations will be included in Armenia's 3<sup>rd</sup> National Communication to be submitted to the UN/FCCC.

Ms Ghalachyan further gave an overview of recent or on-going projects, aimed at evaluating climate change impacts on natural ecosystems in order to develop specific conservation measures. Moreover, in her presentation, Ms Ghalachyan explained the results of vulnerability assessment studies carried out on forest and water ecosystems.

Investigation and research also concerned the 452 superior plant species included in the national Red Book of Plants, for which the impact of the possible changes in the ecosystems due to climate change was evaluated. The study revealed that although for the majority of the species climate change will not represent a major risk, 74 species could be severely threatened changes in their ecosystem.

Ms Ghalachyan concluded by presenting a series of adaptation measures which have been prepared to ensure the conservation of Armenia's biological diversity in the context of climate change.

## **8. Future work of the Group of Experts: brainstorming on the added value of the Group and selection of topics to be included in a possible renewed mandate (where appropriate)**

The Secretariat summarised document [T-PVS/Inf \(2014\) 12](#), including an assessment of the achievements of the Group of Experts compared to the adopted work-plan and mandate. According to it, the Group of Experts has deeply addressed most of the issues foreseen in its work-plan (marine biodiversity, immobile species and species with reduced mobility, impact of climate change on Bern Convention's species and habitats, etc.), and provided advice on climate change management and adaptation, as well as promoted a better understanding the impacts of climate change. Incidentally, the Group also addressed the interrelation between Climate Change and Human Rights.

Work is still on-going under the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks on the management of protected areas in the light of climate change; moreover, some issues would benefit from a deeper analysis, such as the impact of climate change on immobile species or on amphibians and reptiles. However, the concerned Group of Experts could also take these issues into further consideration.

Concerning the methodology, the Group of Experts was particularly successful in co-operating with other Groups of Experts under the Convention, as well as with other Council of Europe's bodies and institutions. Regular exchange of information and coordination were also carried out with institutions working on climate change outside the Council of Europe, among which the IPCC, the CBD, the CMS, AEW, ACCOBAMS, RAC/SPA, WCMC, GBIF, IUCN, CABI, the Ramsar Convention, the EEA, the ENCA, and of course with the NGOs, research institutions and academia.

However, the Secretariat recalled that the results of the first monitoring of the implementation of relevant recommendations by Contracting Parties didn't deliver an encouraging picture. The monitoring report emphasised on the persistent gaps in the implementation of the actions recommended by the Standing Committee, and put forward that still a lot needs to be done for incorporating climate change concerns into biodiversity conservation policies. Moreover, the Secretariat regretted that despite the constant interest of international partners and stakeholders in the work of the Bern Convention on climate change (as demonstrated also by the list of high level speakers contributing to the meetings of the Group of Experts) the participation of Parties has been decreasing over the recent years, and none offered to host any of the meetings since the year 2009. The meetings of the Group of Experts continue to be high quality ones, and to produce guidance and

recommendations which receive the appreciation of the Standing Committee, but a discussion on the real commitment of Parties towards the continuation of this work and on its value compared to the work carried out by others should be carried out.

Another issue raised by the Secretariat concerned the feedback given by Parties through their reporting. In fact, the number of reports received by the Secretariat (an average of 11 in the past 4 meetings) cannot be considered sufficient to properly represent the Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention. This undermines the correctness and usefulness of the results of monitoring of implementation and does certainly not benefit the Parties.

As a conclusion, the Secretariat addressed to the participants a series of questions, inviting them to have a brainstorming on the future of the Group of Experts.

The Delegate of Norway, Ms Borg Pedersen emphasised on the relevant and useful work carried out by the Group of Experts so far, noting the high quality documents produced and their practical utility for Contracting Parties. Moreover, she noted that full implementation of the recommendations and guidance elaborated and agreed by the Parties is still missing, while some of the issues raised by climate change need to be urgently addressed. The focus on biodiversity has been undoubtedly one of the main merits of the Group of Experts and something which the Group should help maintaining.

Ms Borg Pedersen suggested that the Group of Experts continues to work, through a renewed work-plan, particularly on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. Work on the development of a common framework for monitoring the impact of climate change in Contracting Parties should also be foreseen, and could be of great support especially for those Parties lacking specific climate change monitoring programmes. Another topic which could be explored is the further investigation of the resilience of Bern Convention's listed species and habitats, in order to identify possible ways to enhance it. Another topic to be further investigated could be the impact of extreme climate events on local communities, and how they could use biodiversity conservation at local level to minimise their impact.

Finally, Ms Borg Pedersen noted that the Convention could also liaise with the IPBES in order to complete the work that the latter is going to start on climate change.

The Delegate of Switzerland, Mr Walther, expressed appreciation for the work carried out by the Group of Experts and considered that it can still be relevant for encouraging actions by the Parties. Science has made important progress and knowledge on climate change has improved since the creation of the Group of Experts, which has certainly be successful in almost fulfilling its first work-plan, but which could be even more relevant in stimulating further investigation of new and pending issues.

The Group of Experts could therefore consider the possibility of conducting a new phase of scientific assessments, based on the reports prepared so far, looking into possible gaps and new challenges, and with a stronger focus on action/reaction. He concluded by suggesting that the participants to the last meeting are informed, at the same time as the Focal Points, of the dates of the forthcoming meetings.

The representative of the CMS emphasised on the possibilities of cooperation between the Bern Convention and the CMS, in case the next CMS Conference of the Parties will adopt the draft work-plan on climate change. He also recalled that the strong demand for urgent actions against the negative effects of climate change can only be satisfied through the work of groups of experts like the one established under the Bern Convention. However, it might be necessary for the Group to consecrate some time and energies to the preparation of its future work, by considering a new work-plan with clear objectives and deadlines. The Group could also explore how to improve the concrete implementation by Parties, identifying a list of top priorities.

The representative of Natural England stressed that the Bern Convention is probably the most appropriate forum for addressing the issue of biodiversity and climate change, and collecting evidence on this topic. Moreover, there is a number of issues which have not been (or sufficiently been) explored yet. For instance, the work initiated on embedding adaptation considerations into the management of the future Emerald sites deserves to be continued, and even expanded to the Natura 2000 network. The assessment of current practices in terms of adaptation in ecological networks could

also be conducted under the Convention's Group of Experts. Landscape variables in relation to climate change and how to develop permeable landscapes and functional ecological networks, in order to facilitate species' range shifts in response to climatic change could be another topic to be investigated, in the framework of cooperation with the Landscape Convention, also hosted by the Council of Europe.

The representative of the RSPB echoed the comments of many participants regarding the ability to properly communicate on the impacts and risks of climate change and suggested that the Group of Experts may wish to work on developing communication guidance on biodiversity and climate change adaptation, including considerations on how better reaching and involving in the conservation work other or new sectors, including other ministries and entities, business, and of course the citizens. Communication may also target the practical consequences of climate change on human well-being. Another aspect of the communication gap concerns the use of the scientific information and the difficulties in conveying through plain and understandable language the important messages delivered by the scientists. Improving all these aspects of communication may also help raising the profile of climate change issues and mobilising economic resources for addressing them. Finally, the Convention could also consider the opportunity and feasibility of preparing a study on ecosystem based adaptation and mitigation, the role of biodiversity in ecosystem services and the importance of adaptation in maintaining ecosystem services in a changing climate.

The participants further emphasised on the Council of Europe's values and structure, which facilitate democratic participation, international coordination, and constructive dialogue among all relevant stakeholders as a key factor of the effectiveness of the work of the Convention's Groups of Experts.

In conclusions, the Group of Experts decided to request to the Standing Committee to continue its work and namely to facilitate a restricted meeting of a Select Group in charge of preparing a new work-plan for the future of the work, focussing on the issues identified by the participants at the current meeting. However, on the suggestion of the Secretariat and taking into account the low level of participation of Parties in the recent meetings of the Group of Experts, the Group further requested that the Standing Committee has a discussion on the Parties' needs and expectations from the Group and confirms, where appropriate, the Parties' commitment and support to its future work.

## **9. Closure**

The Chair thanked the participants for the fruitful meeting.

**Annex 1**



**Bern Convention Group of Experts  
on Biodiversity and Climate Change**

Palais de l'Europe, Room 10  
Strasbourg, 19 June 2014

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**DRAFT AGENDA**

**09H30 – 17H30**

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Election of the Chair**
- 3. Adoption of the agenda**
- 4. Introduction by the Secretariat**
- 5. Updates on biodiversity and climate change work in other fora**
  - a. The EU Adaptation Strategy  
*European Commission, DG ENV*
  - b. IPCC WGII Report "Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability"  
*Dr. Josef Settele, Coordinating Lead Author of Chapter 4 of the report*
  - c. CMS Draft Programme of Work on combating the effects of climate change on migratory animals  
*Mr Colin Galbraith, CMS Scientific Councillor for Climate Change*
  - d. Reducing the impact of climate change on birds: the contribution of the RSPB  
*Dr Olly Watts, Senior Climate Change Policy Officer, RSPB*
  - e. Council of Europe's Conference of INGOs: the work of the Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee  
*Ms Edith Wenger, Chair of the INGO Climate Change working group*
  - f. Towards Guidelines on the management of Emerald sites in the context of Climate Change  
*Ms Iva Obretenova, Bern Convention*

- 6. Reports from Parties on the implementation of the relevant Standing Committee Recommendations since the last meeting (October 2012)**
- 7. Examples of the concrete implementation of the Convention's recommendations**
  - a. Climate change risks and impacts' assessment in the Emerald Network sites of Armenia  
*Ms Hasmik Ghalachyan, Head of the Division of Plant Resources Management, Ministry of Nature Protection*
- 8. Future work of the Group of Experts: brainstorming on the added value of the Group and selection of topics to be included in a possible renewed mandate (where appropriate)**
- 9. Proposals to the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention**
- 10. Other Business**
- 11. Closure**

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**Annex 3**

**APPENDIX 3: COMPILATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF RELEVANT STANDING COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

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5. Poland / Pologne
6. Portugal / Portugal
7. Slovak Republic / République slovaque
8. Switzerland / Suisse
9. Turkey / Turquie
10. Ukraine / Ukraine
11. United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

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