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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

34tu meeting
Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2014

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Follow-up of Recommendation No. 25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper

REPORTS BY THE PARTIES

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ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE

Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee
Recommendation n° 25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper

(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 6 December 1991)

"Biodiversity Hotspots" of Armenia are identified on the basis of distribution of rare and endangered species of plants, fungi, vertebratae and invertebratae animals included in the Red Book of Armenia. Proposals for changes and improvement of Specially Protected Nature Areas (SPNA) Network of Armenia are given in the article. In the case of implementation of these proposals, representativeness of Armenian ecosystems will increase, and as a result representation of target diversity (rare and endangered species) on SPNAs will consequently increase to 70%. New possibilities for protection of rare and endangered species will be established.

Important Bird Areas of Armenia (IBAs), migratory paths

The Important Bird Areas (IBAs) Programme of BirdLife International aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of IBAs for the conservation of the world's birds and other biodiversity. The selection of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) has been a particularly effective way of identifying conservation priorities. IBAs are key sites for conservation – small enough to be conserved in their entirety and often already part of a protected-area network.

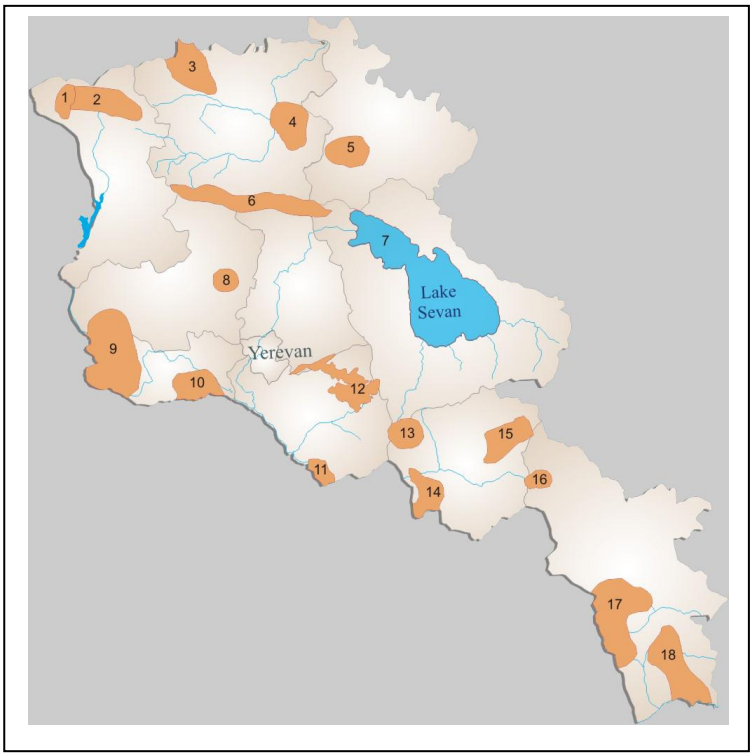
Since IBAs have identified, monitored and protected by national and local organizations and individuals, working on the ground, the IBA Programme can be a powerful way to build national institutional capacity and to set an effective conservation agenda: it is far more than a technical research exercise. (http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/index.html).

The BirdLife affiliate in Armenia is Armenian Society for the Protection of Birds (ASPB). After extensive years of field research and data compilation, ASPB has identified 18 IBAs in Armenia. All of them satisfy the one (or more) of three requirements for selection of Important Bird Areas of BirdLife International:

1) Hold significant numbers of one or more globally threatened species (the list of the global endangered species registered in Armenia presented in Annex 3)
2) Are one of a set of sites that together hold a suite of restricted-range species or biome-restricted species
3) Have exceptionally large numbers of migratory or congregatory species.

IBAs in Armenia

1. Lake Arpi IBA
2. Amasia IBA
3. Tashir IBA
4. Dsegh IBA
5. Haghartsin IBA
6. Pambak Mountain Chain IBA
7. Lake Sevan IBA
8. Mount Ara IBA
9. Sardarapat Steppe IBA
10. Metsamor River System IBA
11. Armash IBA
12. Khosrov IBA
13. Gndasar IBA
14. Noravank IBA
15. Jermuk IBA
16. Gorayk IBA
17. Zangezur IBA
18. Meghri IBA



The selection of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) is an effective way of identifying conservation priorities and in some cases forms the backbone of the newly established protected areas in Armenia.

Table //. International name, code and criteria of IBA of Armenia (BirdLife International)

#	International name	IBA Code	Criteria[1]

[1] ***Criteria of IBA**

A: Global	B**: European**	C: **European Union**
A1. Species of global conservation concern A2. Restricted-range species A3. Biome-restricted species A4. Congregations i.The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, ≥ 1% of a biogeographic population of a congregatory waterbird species. ii.The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, ≥ 1% of the global population of a congregatory seabird or terrestrial species. iii.The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, ≥ 20,000 waterbirds or ≥ 10,000 pairs of seabird of one or more species. iv.The site is known or thought to be a 'bottleneck' site where at least 20,000 storks (Ciconiidae), raptors (Accipitriformes and Falconiformes) or cranes (Gruidae) regularly pass during spring or autumn migration.	B1. Congregations i.The site is known or thought to hold ≥ 1% of a flyway or other distinct population of a waterbird species. ii.The site is known or thought to hold ≥ 1% of a distinct population of a seabird species. iii.The site is known or thought to hold ≥ 1% of a flyway or other distinct population of other congregatory species. iv.The site is a 'bottleneck' site where over 5,000 storks, or over 3,000 raptors or cranes regularly pass on spring or autumn migration. B2. Species with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe B3. Species with a favourable conservation status in Europe	C1. Species of global conservation concern C2. Concentrations of a species threatened at the European Union level C3. Congregations of migratory species not threatened at the EU level C4. Congregatory – large congregations C5. Congregatory – bottleneck sites C6. Species threatened at the European Union level C7. Other ornithological criteria

1.	Lake Arpi	AM006	A1, A4i, B1i, B1iv, B2
2.	Amasia	AM004	A1, A4i, B1i, B2
3.	Tashir	AM008	A1, A2, B2
4.	Dsegh	AM013	B1iv, B2
5.	Haghartsin	AM016	A1, B2
6.	Pambak Mountain Chain	AM009	A1, A2, A3, B2
7.	Lake Sevan	AM015	A1, B2, B3
8.	Mount Ara	AM003	A1, A3, B2
9.	Sardarapat Steppe	AM001	A4i, B1i
10.	Metsamor River System	AM005	A1, A4i, B1i
11.	Armash	AM018	A1, A2, A3, B2, B3
12.	Khosrov	AM012	A1, B1iv, B2
13.	Gndasar	AM010	A1, A2, B2, B3
14.	Noravank	AM014	A1, B2
15.	Jermuk	AM002	A1, B2
16.	Gorayk	AM011	A1, B1iv, B2
17.	Zangezur	AM007	A1, B1iv, B2
18.	Meghri	AM017	A1, A2, A3, B2

The list involves different ecosystems, which pointed to 'key biodiversity areas'. Some IBAs presented in the list (Armash fish-farm, Metsamor River System, Lake Arpi, Lake Sevan, Gorayk) are mainly wetlands ecosystems, where often observed big colonies of waterfowls.

Among others Khosrov IBA be noted. The area extends over four landscape zones: desert/semi-desert, mountain steppe, woodland, and alpine and subalpine meadows, though much valuable high-altitude habitat (meadow steppe on plateaus and rocky areas) lies outside the reserve. At least 156 birds' species have been recorded and 76 of these have been proved to breed. An outstanding site for raptors, with at least 21 species breeding and three possibly breeding, including Aquila chrysaetos, A. pomarina, Circaetus gallicus, Accipiter brevipes and, uniquely in Armenia, a small relict population of Aegolius funereus. A colony of Apus melba in Azat Gorge numbers some 2,000 birds. Among other breeding birds are Dendrocopos medius, Oenanthe hispanica, Monticola saxatilis, M. solitarius and Bucanetes githagineus. (http://www.birdlife.org).

The IBA map largely coincides with the map of specially protected natural areas of Armenia, published in the frames of "Protected Areas Programme 2012 - Caucasus Ecoregion", especially with the newly planned "Lake Arpi", "Arevik" and "Gnishik" national parks, "Zangezur " Sanctuary. Establishment of these protected areas important for protection of unique and abundant by rare and endangered species ornitofauna in Nothten and especially Southern part of Armenia.

The planned network of protected areas does not consider a certain part of these sites, such as very important Armash Fish-farm or Metsamor River System IBAs, due to their forms of lands ownership or high level of population and human activities.

However, IBAs are important tool to consider nesting, foraging and stopover areas during migrations during the environment impact assessment of projects for construction of tourist facilities, roads, hydroelectric power stations, etc.

Important Plant Areas of Armenia

According to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, in Armenia identified of 50% of the most important areas for plant diversity in 2010. The results of the identification of Important Plant Areas in Armenia on the basis of A and B Criteria are presented. Existence of 29 Important plant areas in Armenia and their connection with Specially Protected Natural Areas of the Republic have been specified. Further activities according to country's obligations on Convention on Biological Diversity and Global Strategy for Plant Conservation are emphasized.

1. Name. <<Goravan Sands>> IPA

Location. Near Goravan village, Ararat Marz
Area. 96 ha
Botanical significance. Extremely restricted distribution in Armenia, a site of global conservation concern; the key species *C. polygonoides* is critically endangered species, included in the Red Data Book of Armenia; 18 species of the flora are in the Red list, a number of endemic species are found here too.

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type. Sand desert
Habitat type and code by EUNIS classification. Irano-Anatolian sand steppes, E1.2H
Distribution in Armenia (floristic regions). Yerevan
Area of occupancy. ≤5 km²

2. Name. <<Saline Desert of Yeraskhahun>> IPA

Location . Near village Yeraskhahun, Armavir marz
Area. 5 ha
Botanical significance. A relict habitat type with extremely restricted distribution in Armenia; the site of regional conservation concern; 5 Red Data Book listed plant species in the flora.

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type. Saline desert
Habitat type and code by EUNIS classification. Western Pontic salt scrubs, E6.225
Distribution in Armenia (floristic regions). Aparan
Area of occupancy. ≤5 km².

3. Name. 'Khor Virap Semidesert' IPA, Emerald Network and Ramsar site

Location. At the western edge of Ararat Valley, by Khor Virap Monastery, Ararat Marz
The total area. 15 ha
Botanical significance. Restricted distribution area, the site of national conservation concern; 4 Red Data Book listed plant species in the flora.

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type. Semidesert with *Salsola dendroides*
The name and code by EUNIS classification. Continental inland salt steppes, E6.2
Distribution in Armenia (floristic regions). Yerevan (Ararat Valley)
Area of occupancy. ≤5 km²

4. Name. 'Saline Marshes of Ararat' IPA, Emerald Network site

Location. In about 40km to the south-east of Yerevan, at Ararat town, Ararat Marz.

The total area. 20ha

Botanical significance. An extremely restricted distribution area, close to disappearance, represented with only one site; the site of global conservation concern, the key species – *J. acutus* is an endangered species included in the Red Data Book of Armenia; 11 Red Data book listed species in the flora; floristic richness; a two endemic plants *Linum barsegianii, Sonchus araraticus.*

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type name. Saline marshes with *Juncus acutus*

Name and code by EUNIS classification. Interior Central European and Anatolian *Salicornia, Microcnemum, Suaeda* and *Salsola* swards, D6.16

Distribution in Armenia (floristic regions). Yerevan (Ararat Valley)

Area of occupancy. ≤5 km²

5. Name. 'Urtsasar heaths with *Gypsophila aretioides*' IPA

Location. Yerevan (Urts Mt. Range)

The total area. 20ha

Botanical significance. Very restricted area of occurrence; the site of global importance; the key species – *G.aretioides* is an endangered species included in the Red Data Book of Armenia.

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type. Tragacanth heaths with *Gypsophila aretioides*

Habitat type and code by EUNIS classification. Mediterraneo-Anatolian hedgehog-heaths, F7.4H

Distribution in Armenia (floristic regions). Yerevan, North Zangezur

Area of occupancy. ≤5 km²

6. Name. 'Erebuni Wild Wheats' IPA

Location. In a few km to the east of Yerevan

Area. 89 ha

Botanical significance. Restricted distribution in Armenia, the unique habitat type representing a great gene pool of wild relatives of cereals - a site of global conservation concern. The key species *T. araraticum* is in the Red Data Book of Armenia as a vulnerable species and *T. urartu* – an endangered species and it is found only in Yerevan floristic region; 11 Red data Book listed plant species in total.

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type. Grass steppe with wild wheat

Habitat type and code by EUNIS classification. Irano-Anatolian steppes, E1.2E

Distribution in Armenia (floristic regions). Yerevan, Darelegis

Area of occupancy. ≤5 km².

7. Name. 'Deciduous open forest of Her-Her' IPA

Location. Near Her-Her village, Vayotsdzor Marz.
Area. 100 ha
Botanical significance. Unique habitat type with restricted distribution in Armenia, representing a great gene pool of wild relatives of cultivated plans such as wild fruit and berry trees and shrubs, particularly – a big diversity of wild pears, wild cereals and other; a site of global conservation concern; 2 Red Data Book listed species are found here.

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type. Deciduous open pear forest
Habitat name and code by EUNIS classification. Western Asian wild fruit tree steppe woods, G1.7C9
Distribution in Armenia (floristic regions). Yerevan (Khosrov forest), Darelegis,
Area of occupancy. ≤5 km²

8. Name. 'Pomegranate-Pistaceo Open Forest' IPA

Location. In a few km to the south of Goris, Syunik Marz.
Area. 30 ha
Botanical significance. The site represent a habitat type with very restricted distribution in Armenia; represents a valuable gene pool of wild fruit and berry plants; a site is of national conservation importance.

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type. Open pomegranate-pistaceo forest
Habitat type and code by EUNIS classification. Western Asian wild fruit tree steppe woods, G1.7C9
Distribution in Armenia (floristic regions). South Zangezur
Area of occupancy. ≤5 km².

9. Name. 'The Relict Steppe of Jajur Pass' IPA

Location. Jajur Pass, Shirak Mt.Range, Shirak Marz
Area. 10ha
Botanical significance. A site, representing unique habitat type with very restricted distribution area – a site of global conservation concern; the key species *A. taurica* is an endangered species, included in the Red Data Book of Armenia. The flora of this site represents 7 Red Data book listed species; it is also notable for its floristic richness.

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type. Grass-forbs steppe with *Asphodeline taurica*
Habitat type and code by EUNIS classification. Arid subcontinental steppic grassland, E1.22
Distribution in Armenia (floristic regions). Shirak (Jajur Pass)
Area of occupancy. ≤5 km².

10. Name. 'Akhnabad Yew Grove' IPA

Location. In a beech forest near village Aghavnavank to the north-east of Dilijan town, Tavush
Area. 25 ha

Botanical significance. The IPA represents a relict habitat type with very restricted distribution in Armenia; this is a site of national conservation importance; the edificatory species *T. baccata* is in the Red Data book of Armenia as a vulnerable species.

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type. Mixed yew forests
Habitat type and code by EUNIS classification. Caucasian [Fagus] forests, G1.6H (for the northern sites of Armenia) and Mixed deciduous woodland with [Cupressaceae] or [Taxaceae], G4.9 (for the southern site).

11. Name. 'Hazelnut Grove' IPA

Location. The grove is located in a few km from village Getahovit, on the eastern slope of Ijevan Mt Range, Tavush Marz
Area. 40 ha
Botanical significance. The IPA represents a habitat type with very restricted area of occupancy**;** the key species *C.colurna* is in the Red Data book of Armenia as an endangered species; 2 Red Data Book listed species are in the flora of this site of national importance.

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type. Hazelnut forests
Habitat type and code by EUNIS classification. Mediterraneo-Euxinian deciduous thickets, F3.246

12. Name. 'Pine forest of Gjulagarak' IPA

Location. It is found in 4km from village Gjulagarak, Lori Marz
Area. 70 ha
Botanical significance. The site represents a habitat type with very restricted distribution in Armenia

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type. Aspen forests
Habitat type and code by EUNIS classification. Anatolian aspen forests, G1.926

13. Name. 'Plane Grove' IPA

Location . The area is located in about 40 km to the south-east of Kapan town, at village Nerkin Hand, Syunik Marz.
Area. 80 ha
Botanical significance. Very restricted distribution in Armenia, represented with only one site of global conservation concern. The key species – P. orientalis is in the Red Data Book of Armenia as endangered species; 4 species of the grove's flora included in the Red Data Book of Armenia

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type. Riverine plane forest
Habitat type and code by EUNIS classification. Irano-Anatolian mixed riverine forests, G1.37
Distribution in Armenia (floristic regions). South Zangezur

Area of occupancy. ≤5 km²

14. Name. 'Rhododendron Heaths of Margahovit' IPA

Location . This site lies on the northern slope of Pumbak Mt.Range at village Margahovit, Lori

The total area. 1000 ha

Botanical significance. The site represents a habitat type with restricted distribution in Armenia; it is of national conservation importance; the key species – *R. caucasicus* is in the Red Data Book of Armenia under the category 'Endangered'. The rhododendron heaths play an important soil protection role.

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPES

Habitat type. Rhododendron subalpine heaths

Habitat type and code by EUNIS classification. Pontic alpenrose heaths, F2.226

Distribution in Armenia (floristic regions). Ijevan, Lori

Area of occupancy. ≤5 km²

15. Name. 'Lori Plateau Lakes' IPA

Location. Lori Plateau, Lori Marz

Area. 400 ha?

Botanical significance. The IPA represents unique relict habitat type with restricted distribution in Armenia; the site is of regional conservation concern; 7 Red Data Book listed species in the flora.

RARE AND THREATENED HABITAT TYPE

Habitat type. Eutrophic lakes

Habitat name and code by EUNIS classification. Rooted floating vegetation of eutrophic waterbodies, C1.34

Distribution in Armenia (floristic regions). Lori

Area of occupancy. ≤5 km²

Annex to this report

Draft 17 June 2014

Information about the studies on flora and fauna out of protected areas of Armenia implemented by WWF-Armenia in the frames of different projects

	Area of study on flora and fauna	Project title, duration, donor	Year of establishment of the protected area	Other
1.	The potential area of the planned "Arevik" National Park (Syunik Region)	Assistance to Establishment of New Protected Area Arevik in Southern Armenia; 2005-2009; CEPF	"Arevik" National Park was established by the RA Governmental decision in 2009. Draft management plan exists.	Draft management plan for "Arevik" NP was developed in the frames of the project Biodiversity Protection and Community Development: Implementing Ecoregional Conservation Plan Targets in South Armenia; 2007-2011; funded by the Norwegian Government.
2.	The potential area of the planned "Zangezur" Sanctuary (Syunik Region)	Assistance to Establishment of New Protected Area Zangezur in Southern Armenia; 2005-2009; CEPF	"Zangezur" Sanctuary was established by the RA Governmental decision in 2009 and its territory was extended by the RA Governmental decision in 2013.	Draft management plan exists.
3.	The potential area of the planned "Arpi Lake" National Park (Shirak Region)	Ecoregional Conservation Programme in the Southern Caucasus Region: Establishment of Protected Areas in Armenia's Javakhq (Ashotsk) Region; 2007-	"Arpi Lake" National Park was established by the RA Governmental decision in 2009. The NP management plan was	

		2014; German Government (KfW German Development Bank)	approved in 2011.	
4.	The potential area of the planned "Gnishik" Protected Area (Vayots Dzor Region)	Feasibility study on Establishment of Gnishik protected area; 2006-2007; CEPF	It is planned to have a community-managed protected area; "Gnishik" Intercommunity Environmental Fund was established in 2010 to manage the PA	Draft management plan exists.
	The potential area of the planned "Khustup" Sanctuary (Syunik Region)	Developing the Protected Area System of Armenia: Improving Capacity Building and Management Regime; 2010-2014; UNDP/GEF	"Khustup" Sanctuary was established by the RA Governmental decision in 2013.	Draft management plans developed for "Khustup", "Zangezur" Sanctuaries and "Gnishik" protected area.
5.	The project pilot sites, totally 150 ha on the territory of Spitak Forest District of Gugarq Forest Enterprise and Koghb Forest District of Noyemberyan Forest Enterprise of "Hayantar" SNCO (state forest lands)	Increasing the Resilience of Forest Ecosystems Against Climate Change in The South Caucasus Countries Through Forest Transformation; 2011-2015; European Union	N/A	Forest transformation plans developed (2012) and transformation measures implemented (2012 – ongoing)
6.	Desk study with GIS mapping on distribution of rare and endangered flora and fauna species in the main water basins of Armenia (national-scale study)	Promoting Sustainable Dam Development at River-Basin-Scale in the Southern Caucasus (Pilot Phase); 2013-2014; Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Regional project implemented in Kura-Aras River Basin (Armenia, Georgia, Azerbayjan)	N/A	The study and mapping is in the process

7.	The project site (70 ha) near Trchkan Waterfall (Lori region)	Forest Landscape Restoration in Northern Armenia; 2011-2015; WWF-Switzerland	N/A	Forest restoration plans developed (2012) and are in the process of implementation

CROATIA / CROATIE

Recommendation n° 25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper
(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 6 December 1991)

Zagreb, 20th June 2014

Report on Natura 2000 in Croatia (compiled by State Institute for Nature Protection)

Emerald Network is an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI) that all parties to the Bern Convention are obliged to set up on their respective territories. It includes areas of particular ecological significance for conservation of habitat types listed in Resolution no. 4 and the species listed in Resolution no. 6 of the Bern Convention. Ecological network Natura 2000 represents the part of Emerald Network for the European Union.

In the period 2001–2003, the Council of Europe financed the implementation of **Emerald Network pilot-projects** in a number of European countries, including Croatia. The pilot-project for Croatia **(Phase I)** was conducted in 2003 by the Croatian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Spatial Planning in co-operation with Croatian scientists, with financial support from the Council of Europe. During the implementation of this project, six protected areas with international protection status (Ramsar, World Heritage, UNESCO Biosphere reserve) were identified as potential ASCI's. Respective data was collected and entered into the Emerald database, covering 5.47% of Croatian territory.

In 2005 and 2006, thanks to financing from the European Environment Agency and in co-ordination with the Council of Europe, the implementation **Phase II** of projects in Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania took place. Pilot-project for Croatia was implemented by the State Institute for Nature Protection. The list of proposed ASCI's was prepared, including more than 90% of the area of estimated future final proposal. Data was entered into the Emerald database and respective GIS database with digitised boundaries of ASCI's was prepared.

The **Phase III** was implemented in 2011 in co-operation with the Council of Europe and ETC/BD of the European Environment Agency. Through this project, proposals of ASCI's of Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania have been analysed by the ETC/BD and the biogeographical seminar was held in November 2011 in Montenegro. In the framework of this project, Croatia was included with and negotiated its proposal for Natura 2000, as it had already been prepared as a part of obligations in the process of accession to EU.

After **biogeographical seminar** and revisions of proposals according to conclusions of the seminar, Council of Europe will designate lists of Emerald candidate sites. In the meantime, **Republic of Croatia has become the EU member state in 2013 and designated its ecological network Natura 2000**. This proposal was somewhat revised comparing to the proposal from 2011 and it still has to be negotiated with the EU during biogeographical seminar to be held in September 2014. At the end, Croatian part of Natura 2000 will replace the proposal negotiated in Montenegro and become the part of the Emerald network.

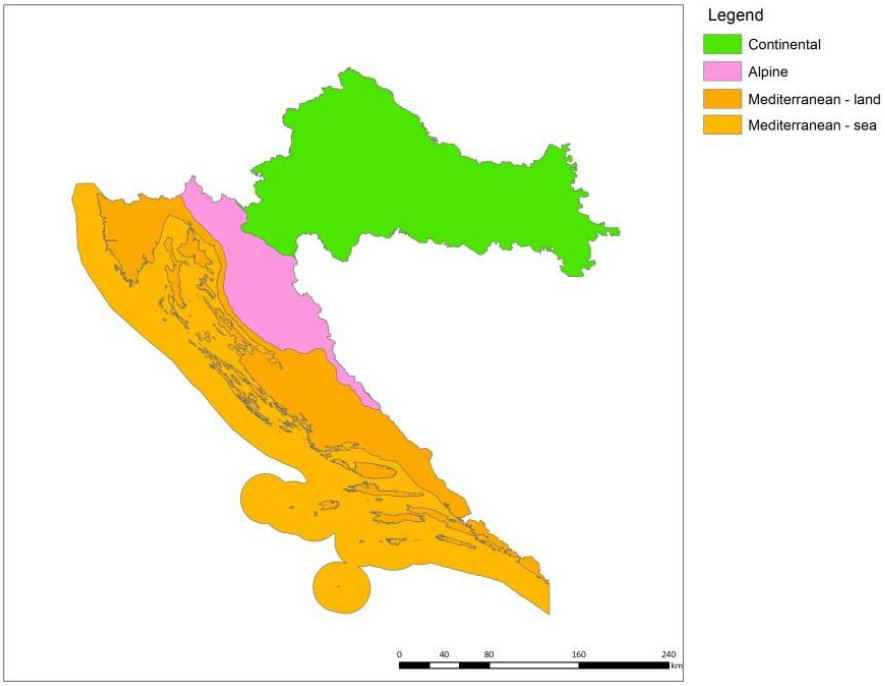
In 2007 Croatian Government designated **National Ecological Network** composed of important sites for conservation of rare and endangered species and habitat types on national and international level. The proposal was prepared through the projects LIFE III, "Building up of the National Ecological Network as a part of PanEuropean ecological network and the network NATURA 2000 – CRONEN", implemented by the State Institute for Nature Protection.

National ecological network covered 47% of Croatian land and 39% of its marine waters as well as **two corridors**: corridor for sea turtles and the Palagruža-Lastovo-Pelješac corridor (an area important for bird migration).

According to the Nature Protection Act from 2013, the National Ecological Network that was proclaimed by the Regulation from 2007, is no longer in force but has been **replaced by the EU ecological network Natura 2000**. The final list of Natura 2000 sites (SPAs and pSCIs) was adopted in September 2013 by the Government as a part of the Regulation on the Ecological Network (Official Gazette 124/13).

The Ecological network **Natura 2000 covers 36.67% of land territory and 16.39% of coastal marine waters,** putting Croatia at the top with Slovenia and Bulgaria in terms of percentage of the land territory included in Natura 2000. 742 proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs) (of which 171 sites are cave objects) and 38 Special Protected Areas (SPAs) are included. pSCIs have been defined for 74 habitat types and for 135 species. Out of these, 20 habitat types and nine species are priority ones according to the Habitats Directive. SPAs have been defined for 126 bird species.

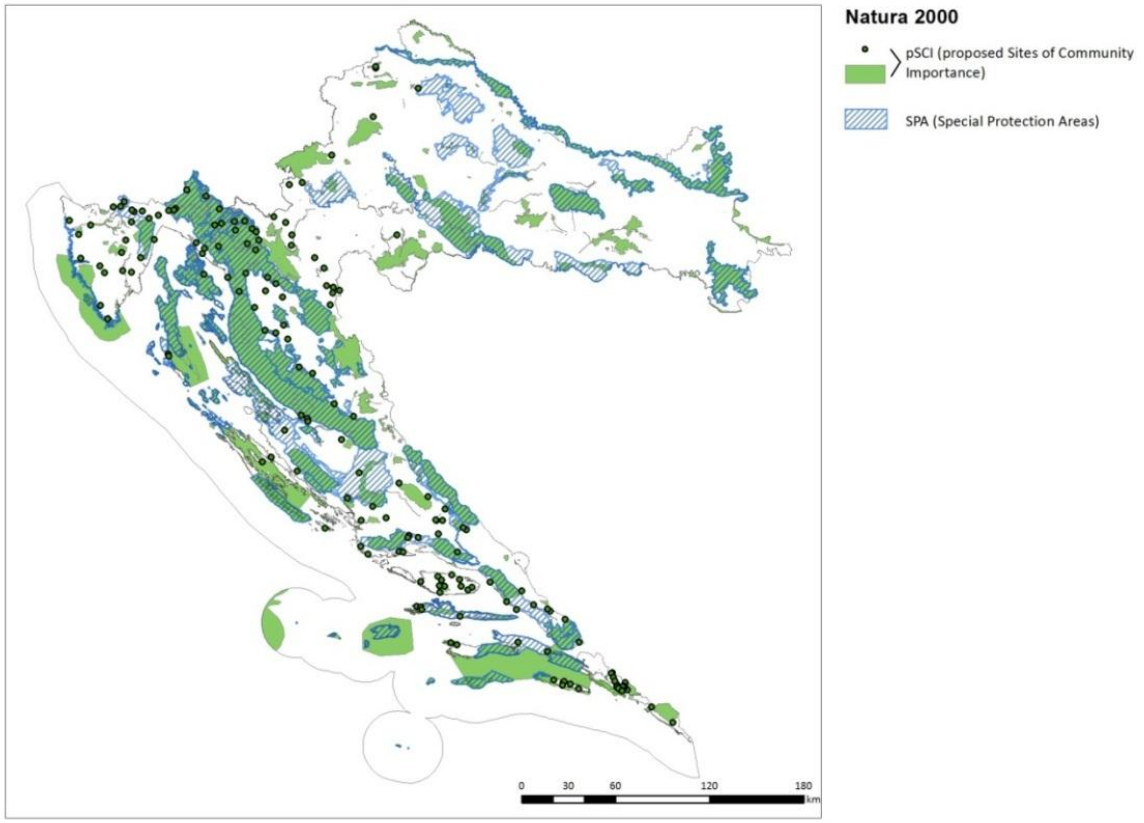
In Croatia, **three terrestrial biogeographical regions** are present: Continental, Alpine and Mediterranean and one marine biogeographical region: Mediterranean region.



Map 1. Biogeographical regions in the Republic of Croatia (Data source: EEA, 2011)

Table 1. Data on the number and surfaces of ecological network Natura 2000 Croatia (Source: SINP)

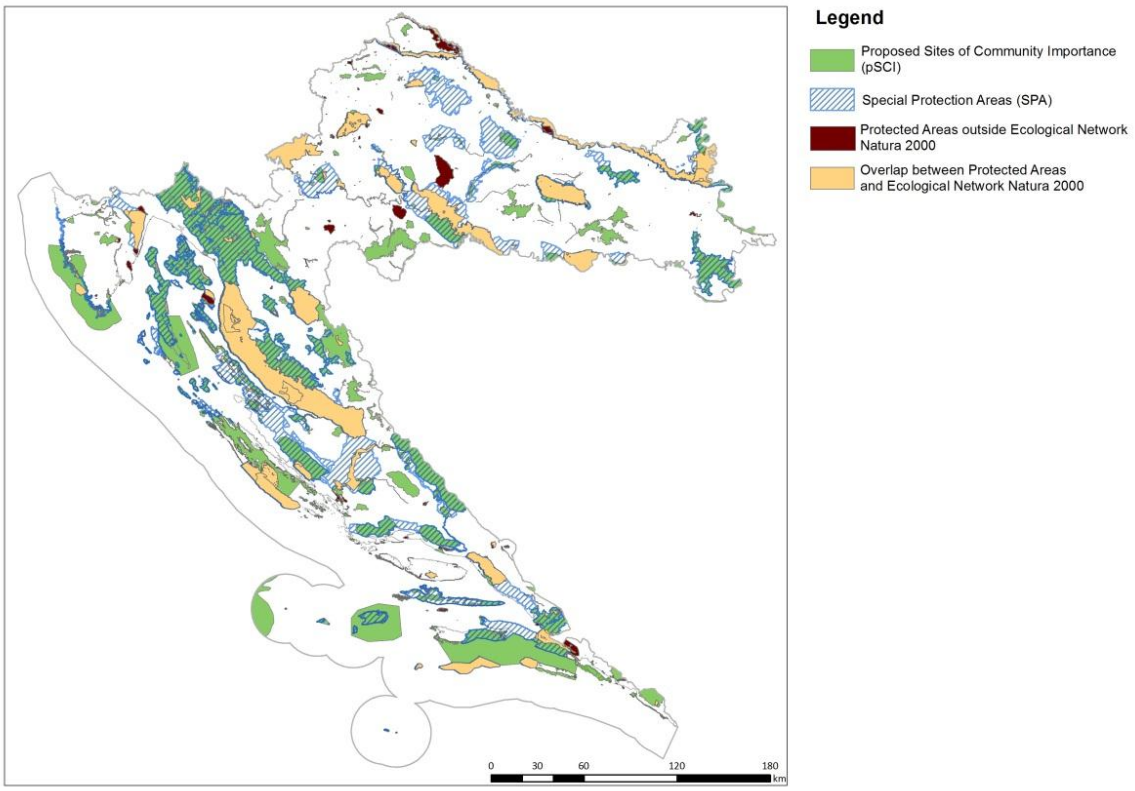
	Land surface of Croatia (km2)	% of land surface of Croatia	Coastal marine waters of Croatia (km2)	% of coastal marine waters of Croatia	Total surface of Croatia (km2)	% of total surface of Croatia	Number of ecological network sites
proposed Sites of Community Interest (pSCI)	16,059.57	28.38	4,903.12	15.44	20,962.69	23.73	742
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	17,107.55	30.23	1,040.13	3.28	18,147.68	20.54	38
Ecological network	20,754.97	**36.67**	5,204.63	**16.39**	25,959.6	**29.38**	**780**



Map 2. Ecological network Natura 2000 in the Republic of Croatia (Source: SINP)

In case of the Ecological network of the Republic of Croatia which was proclaimed in 2007, areas were designated for habitat types and species threatened not only at the European, but also at the national level, as well as for endemic taxa. Due to this fact, changes in the criteria led to the changes in ecological network sites, their target species, habitat types and surfaces. Changes were also caused by the fact that wide-ranging researches were conducted in the period from 2007 to 2013, in cooperation with a wide expert and scientific community. The research was funded by the state budget, and it resulted in the collection of a major quantity of new data, on the basis of which ecological network sites were revised. Information is still missing for marine sites, so future research of these will be national priority.

Around **one quarter of the surface of the Natura 2000 ecological network (26.14%) is already protected within nine protected area categories of the Nature Protection Act**. The analysis of overlaps between the Natura 2000 ecological network and protected areas also shows that 87.17 % of the total surface of protected areas is located within the Natura 2000 ecological network.



Map 3. Map of overlaps between Natura 2000 ecological network and protected areas (Source: SINP)

The SINP hosts a website devoted to Natura 2000 with an **interactive map** (http://www.natura2000.hr/Home.aspx).

Report on Appropriate Assessment procedure in accordance to Habitats Directive (Article 6.3 and 6.4.) in Croatia (compiled by Directorate for Nature Protection, Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection)

According to the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) of 21 May 1992 Article 6.3 and 6.4, the Appropriate Assessment must be carried out of any project, plan or programme likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site.

Regulations of the Habitats and Birds Directives were transposed into Croatian legislation in 2005 through the provisions of the Nature Protection Act (OG 70/05, 139/08, 57/11, 80/13), the Regulation on Proclamation of the National Ecological Network (OG 109/07) in 2007 and Regulation on Ecological Network (OG 124/13) in 2013.

Ordinance on Ecological Network Impact Assessment of Plans, Programmes and Projects (OG 89/07, 118/09) defines the procedure in details and reflects the proposed model of Appropriate Assessment requirements of the Habitats Directive (Article 6.3 and 6.4) in three stages: Pre-assessment (screening), Main Assessment and Establishment of Imperative Overriding Public Interest and Compensatory Terms (IROPI). If for a certain project, according to the Environmental Protection Act, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure is obligatory, the Appropriate Assessment procedure is conducted in the framework of the EIA procedure, considering all the necessary elements (Screening, Main Assessment and IROPI). If for a certain strategy, plan or programme, according to the Environmental Protection Act, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure is obligatory, the Appropriate Assessment procedure is conducted in the framework of the SEA procedure.

According to the Nature Protection Act (NPA), the jurisdiction over Appropriate Assessment procedure is divided between the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection (Directorate for Nature Protection) and County Administration Offices responsible for environmental protection. The State Institute for Nature Protection (SINP) has an important role in the procedure as the expert institution by giving the opinion on the results of the assessment in all stages of the Appropriate Assessment procedure.

Regarding projects that will have negative impacts on the conservation objectives, the main assessment should be conducted and impact assessment study should be produced by authorized companies in order to assess the aspects of these negative impacts and to propose the mitigation measures which will effectively diminish those impacts or compensatory terms in last phase of the procedure. The Ministry regulates the authorisation of legal persons (authorized companies) to conduct expert tasks in the field of environmental protection which implies production of AA, EIA and SEA studies by the provisions of the Ordinance on conditions for granting approval for legal persons to conduct expert tasks in the field of environmental protection (OG 57/10).

The Appropriate Assessment procedure has been carried out since 2008 and up until today in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection (Directorate for Nature Protection) there were approximately 600 separate procedures conducted on assessment of projects.

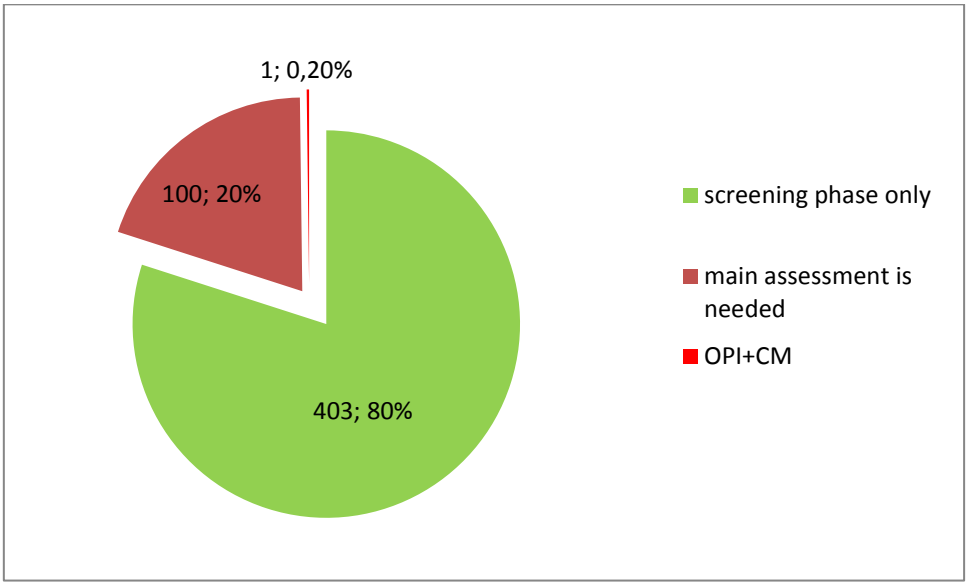


Chart: Number of project´s Appropriate Assessment procedures conducted by the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection (Directorate for Nature Protection) by the end of 2013.

Beside AA and EIA procedures, according to the Nature Protection Act, in the process of issuing of building permits for projects planned in protected areas or outside the building area, Ministry or County Administration Offices determine terms and conditions of nature protection.

Beside SEA procedure, according to the Nature Protection Act, in the process of developing of a natural resource management plan, the Ministry is issuing a Decision on terms and conditions of nature protection and in the process of developing of a spatial plan the Ministry is issuing the requirements of nature protection. Requirements of nature protection include terms and conditions of nature protection, an overview of protected areas and Ecological Network areas as well as ecologically important areas. Both, natural resource management plan and spatial plan which could have negative impacts on target species and habitats as well as integrity of the Natura 2000, can be adopted only with prior consent or opinion of the Ministry.

CYPRUS/ CHYPRE

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
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Follow-up of Recommendation No.25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper

I am referring to your letter dated 14.4.2014 regarding the aforementioned subject and would like to inform you on the following:

Cyprus fully implements the provisions and obligations arising from the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

As such, the Republic has designated 40 Sites of Community Importance, covering 13,49% of the area of the Republic in which the Government exercises effective control (8.13% of total area of island), with the sole purpose of protecting endangered, vulnerable and/or important habitats and species.

All species and habitats that fall outside these protected areas are monitored and the opinion of the Department of Environment is obtained when projects and/or plans may have an impact on them. This is done on a case-by-case basis and the appropriated measures are implemented to minimize effects and impacts.

Also, please note that suggestions made in the Appendix of Recommendation No.25(1991) regarding acquisition of land by the state, do not constitute an economically viable practice for the time being.

We remain at your disposal.

Sincerely,

Elena Stylianopoulou

for Director

CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

RECOMMENDATION N. 25 (1991) ON THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL AREAS OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS PROPER IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

General measures for promoting ecological management of the environment as a whole

The Nature Protection Act (Act on the Nature and Landscape Protection no. 114/1992 Coll., as amended) empowers the nature protection authorities to participate within the permitting processes, projects and plans of larger scale are subject of environmental impact assessment, resp. strategic environmental assessment.

Intensive management of agricultural land and forest in the Czech Republic represents a significant impact on nature and landscape. The Ministry of Environment promotes stricter requirements on the agriculture land use (national implementation of GAEC has limited impact on biodiversity and the landscape water regime), soil erosion is assessed as extremely high (what influences the landscape water regime and water ecosystems in the lower parts of watersheds) and the heterogeneity of the landscape is low. In the forestry section the Principles of State Forest Policy were adopted in 2012. On the basis of these Principles, the ministers of agriculture, environment, and defence shall take into account the established measures by the preparation of respective legislation within each resort. To meet long term goals "Increase the biodiversity of forest ecosystems, their integrity and ecological stability" implementation of 5 partial measures was recommended – these are focused on support of nature closed forestry, increase of diversity in species richness, age and spatial forest structure in connection with regulation of the game in order to reduce the damage on forest ecosystems. The Principles of State Forest Policy are based on measures of the National Forests Programme for the 2008 - 2013, which recommended amendments of forestry and hunting legislative *inter alia* with regard *"To alleviate impacts of expected global climate change and extreme meteorological phenomena"* (key action 6). The concerned legislation being under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture has not been amended, yet.

Ecological corridors, landscape features and elements

General nature and landscape protection according to the Nature Protection Act comprises protection of landscape, species diversity, natural values and aesthetic values of nature, as well as protection and considerate use of natural resources. General landscape protection encompasses the following instruments: territorial system of ecological stability, outstanding landscape elements, landscape character, nature parks, temporarily protected areas, inanimate components of nature and landscape, and general species protection. The Territorial System of Ecological Stability of the Landscape (TSES) is a mutually interconnected complex of both natural and near-natural, altered ecosystems that maintain natural balance. The network provides for preservation of natural heritage including its richness, diversity and heterogeneity, favourable impact on the surrounding less healthy parts of the landscape, and forming a basis for multiple use of the landscape. The landscape character, which is particularly natural, cultural and historical characteristic of certain place or area, shall be protected from any activity reducing its aesthetic and natural values. Outstanding landscape elements are protected under the Nature Protection Act against damage or deterioration and shall be used to such extent which does not limit their restoration and does not threaten or weaken their ecological-stabilizing function. These are explicitly all floodplains, forests, ponds, lakes, peat lands and watercourses; other landscape elements (especially wetlands, lanes, hedgerows, permanent and stepic grasslands etc. or elements of TSES) can become outstanding landscape element after process of registration. General protection of the inanimate components of nature and landscape includes protection of caves, natural surface phenomena related to caves, paleontological finds, and minerals. General species protection ensures that all plant and animal species are protected against destruction, damage, collection and hunting, special focus being given to wild birds. Further, dispersion of geographically non-indigenous species and export/import of species protected by national law and

international conventions shall be controlled. Another important general instrument is protection of trees growing outside forests. Besides that, natural watercourses channels are also protected under the Water Protection Act (no 254/2008 Coll.) against harmful activities, excluding activities carried out in line with this Act. All mentioned elements and features can be protected within the specially protected areas, including the Natura 2000 network.

Prepared by: Dr. Jakub Horecký and Alena Kubánková, Ministry of Environment

FRANCE

Note des Autorités françaises

Objet : rapport sur la mise en œuvre en France de la Recommandation n°25 (1991) sur la conservation des espaces naturels à l'extérieur des zones protégées proprement dites.

L'action publique en matière de biodiversité s'est longtemps consacrée à la protection de la nature par la création d'aires protégées ou de plans de protection des espèces. Au-delà de la protection indispensable de la biodiversité « remarquable », les Autorités françaises ont développé des actions de conservation de la biodiversité « ordinaire » dont l'enjeu est le maintien ou la restauration du bon état des écosystèmes et des services qu'ils rendent au bénéfice du plus grand nombre.

Ces politiques prennent la forme de différents dispositifs avec l'ambition de contribuer à une meilleure conciliation entre activités humaines et biodiversité. Le 5ème rapport national à la Convention sur la diversité biologique présente de façon approfondie l'état de mise en œuvre par la France de ses engagements internationaux en matière de biodiversité, notamment avec la révision et l'adoption d'une nouvelle stratégie nationale pour la biodiversité 2011-2020[2]. En vue de rendre compte de la mise en œuvre de la Recommandation n°25 (1991) de la Convention de Berne, une présentation est faite ci-après des dispositifs plus spécifiques relatifs à la Trame verte et bleue, à la conservation des espaces littoraux et enfin aux dispositifs relatifs aux études d'impact sur l'environnement.

1. Les dispositifs de protection visant à la gestion durable des ressources naturelles

a. La Trame verte et bleue

La France a développé sur son territoire un outil d'aménagement du territoire en faveur de la biodiversité créé par la loi Grenelle 1 : « la Trame verte et bleue » (TVB). Le dispositif législatif, inscrit dans les codes de l'environnement, de l'urbanisme, des collectivités territoriales, mais également le code rural et le code forestier, offre une définition claire de la Trame verte et bleue et assure son assise juridique et une véritable opposabilité à tous les projets et documents de planification de l'État et des collectivités territoriales, dans le cadre d'une gouvernance partagée.

La Trame verte et bleue poursuit l'objectif d'enrayer la perte de biodiversité, en préservant et en remettant en bon état des réseaux de milieux naturels ou « continuités écologiques » constituées de réservoirs de biodiversité reliés les uns aux autres par des corridors écologiques. Elle s'appuie sur les espaces protégés, le réseau Natura 2000 et sur d'autres espaces plus « ordinaires » contribuant à leur fonctionnement écologique. La Trame verte et bleue inclut une composante verte qui fait référence aux milieux naturels et semi-naturels terrestres et une composante bleue qui fait référence au réseau aquatique et humide (fleuves, rivières, canaux, étangs, zones humides). Le dispositif s'appuie sur l'articulation de trois niveaux : des orientations nationales qui visent une cohérence écologique nationale de la

[2] http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/fr/fr-nr-05-fr.pdf

trame, des schémas régionaux de cohérence écologique (SRCE) portés par les autorités régionales, des documents d'urbanisme et plus généralement des documents de planification ainsi que des projets de l'État et des collectivités, qui traduisent au niveau local des priorités régionales.

Pour appuyer ces démarches, un centre national de ressources dédié à la Trame verte et bleue permet d'appuyer la mise en œuvre de la politique et de faciliter les travaux à l'échelle locale (capitalisation, partage d'information, soutien méthodologique, valorisation des expériences, outil de communication). Le site Internet dédié à la trame verte et bleue mis en place fin 2011 est un des outils de ce centre de ressources : http://www.trameverteetbleue.fr/

Enfin, dans le cadre de la stratégie nationale pour la biodiversité 2011-2020, l'État a décidé de porter un engagement fort et de soutenir des actions opérationnelles en matière de restauration des milieux naturels et des continuités écologiques. C'est ainsi que des appels à projets ont été lancés en 2011 et 2012, à destination en particulier des collectivités, pour soutenir des actions concrètes de mise en œuvre de la TVB concernant le rétablissement des continuités écologiques des infrastructures de transport existantes, les trames vertes et bleues urbaines, la restauration de milieux remarquables ou sensibles pour un montant total de 8.2M€[1].

Depuis l'adoption des premiers SRCE en Île-de-France en octobre 2013 ainsi qu'en Rhône-Alpes et Nord-Pas de Calais en juillet 2014 les autres dynamiques régionales se poursuivent dans un calendrier rythmé qui devrait permettre à une dizaine de schémas d'être adoptés en 2014 et la totalité en 2015. En Corse, le projet d'aménagement et de développement durable en cours de révision vaudra SRCE. En Outre-Mer, les schémas d'aménagement régionaux (SAR) doivent intégrer un chapitre individualisé relatif à la trame verte et bleue lors de leur révision, c'est le cas pour les SAR Guyane, Mayotte et Martinique, en cours de révision.

b. Les espaces de continuités écologiques (ECE)

En application de la conférence environnementale de 2012, un projet de loi a été élaboré en faveur de la biodiversité et est en cours d'examen au Parlement. Le projet propose un nouvel outil au service de la préservation de la biodiversité ordinaire : les espaces de continuités écologiques.

Ces espaces visent à apporter :
- une complémentarité avec l'Espace boisé classé (EBC), l'ECE pouvant être mobilisé à la place de l'EBC sur certaines formations boisées de type haies, arbres isolés ou sur des continuités écologiques constituées d'une mosaïque de milieux comprenant des formations boisées pour lesquels l'interdiction de plein droit du défrichement et le régime de déclaration préalable des coupes-abattages ne sont pas forcément écologiquement pertinents ;
- un régime d'interdiction de plein droit de toute intervention compromettant la préservation/remise en bon état des continuités écologiques inspiré du régime d'interdiction de plein droit du défrichement en EBC ;
- une mobilisation de l'outil tant dans les documents d'urbanisme que dans les petites communes qui n'en sont pas dotées.

Ce nouvel outil permet d'empêcher la destruction d'autres formations végétales que les milieux boisés (zones humides, milieux ouverts…) et offre aux collectivités, sur la base du volontariat, un nouveau dispositif pour protéger la biodiversité.

2. Conservation des espaces naturels littoraux à l'extérieur des zones protégées proprement dites

Cinq dispositifs tendent en France à promouvoir une gestion intégrée et adaptative de l'espace littoral et de l'espace marin adjacent prenant simultanément en compte les enjeux écologiques, économiques et sociaux. Ils s'inscrivent dans la lignée des mesures de la partie VI de la recommandation n°25 de la Convention de Berne relatives à :

- l'instauration d'un régime applicable au domaine public maritime naturel, prenant en compte la nécessité de préserver les milieux naturels (a),
- l'adoption de règles particulières d'aménagement interdisant ou limitant la construction et l'implantation d'ouvrages sur le littoral et l'inclusion dans les planifications de zones bénéficiant d'un degré de protection élevé (b),
- le déploiement d'outils complémentaires à la création d'aires protégées foncières (c),
- la promotion d'une gestion intégrée du trait de côte (d),
- la recherche d'une gestion coordonnée du littoral et des espaces marins adjacents à travers la directive cadre « stratégie pour le milieu marin » (e).

a. La gestion durable et intégrée du domaine public maritime naturel

Le domaine public maritime naturel est en France l'un des éléments les plus vastes du domaine public de l'Etat. Constitué pour l'essentiel du rivage de la mer et du sol et sous-sol de la mer jusqu'à la limite des eaux territoriales (soit plus de 100 000 km2 en métropole), il présente une richesse écologique exceptionnel (estuaires et autres milieux humides, sites de reproduction pour les oiseaux et les mammifères marins, présence de nombreuses espèces protégées et d'habitats naturels remarquables comme les mangroves, les récifs coralliens et les herbiers, ...). La consistance de ce domaine repose largement sur la constatation d'un état de fait résultant de l'action de la nature ; elle n'est donc pas figée par rapport aux propriétés riveraines.

La conservation de ce domaine - dont l'Etat est gestionnaire - implique de concilier ses différentes vocations. Par nature inaliénable et imprescriptible, il n'est pas destiné à recevoir des implantations permanentes ; tout autre ouvrage ou construction doit être autorisé préalablement. Certaines activités peuvent également être accueillies quand elles répondent à une utilité publique ou, par exemple, nécessitent la proximité immédiate de l'eau.
Afin de développer une vision transversale sur ce domaine et les territoires qui lui sont associés et pour permettre à tous les usages de s'y exprimer, en recherchant le meilleur équilibre et le moindre impact sur l'environnement, une circulaire du ministère en charge de l'écologie, en date du 20 janvier 2012, prévoit l'élaboration de stratégies départementales de gestion intégrée et durable du DPM naturel.

Ces stratégies ont vocation à définir les enjeux et les orientations de gestion de cet espace d'interface terre-mer, au regard notamment de la protection de la biodiversité et de la qualité des eaux continentales et marines. Elles visent à :

- améliorer la connaissance des caractéristiques physiques, des usages et des sensibilités environnementales du territoire afin de constituer un état des lieux lisible en termes de pressions et d'enjeux (démographie, activités économiques, intérêt environnemental) ;
- définir, chaque fois que cela sera possible, les orientations de l'État pour la gestion des usages considérés comme les plus porteurs d'enjeux. Ces orientations permettront de dialoguer avec les collectivités et pourront nourrir le « porter-à-connaissance » de l'État dans le cadre de son association aux documents de planification ;

- définir des doctrines locales afin d'optimiser les pratiques de gestion du DPM naturel, notamment par une bonne coordination des services de l'Etat, la résolution des concurrences d'usage, la remise en état du domaine (en poursuivant par exemple les occupants sans titre), et la prise en compte des enjeux environnementaux.

Tous les services déconcentrés départementaux ont aujourd'hui lancé, en métropole et en outre-mer, l'élaboration de cet exercice stratégique qui intègre pleinement la nécessité de conserver les espaces naturels en dehors des zones protégées. Certains services l'ont d'ailleurs déjà finalisé, l'objectif étant que la quasi-totalité l'ait achevé d'ici la fin de l'année 2014.

b. La loi « littoral », outil de planification et d'équilibre entre protection et développement

La loi n° 86-2 du 3 janvier 1986 relative à l'aménagement, la protection et la mise en valeur du littoral se traduit par une organisation volontariste de l'utilisation de l'espace littoral qui vise à limiter l'urbanisation en front de mer, dégager des accès au public, freiner le mitage des espaces naturels, agricoles et forestiers, sans pour autant interdire aux communes littorales tout développement.

Elle s'applique aux communes riveraines des océans, mers, étangs salés et plans d'eau naturels ou artificiels de plus de 1000 hectares. Les principales règles qui en découlent sont tout à la fois opposables aux documents d'urbanisme, dont l'élaboration est de la compétence des collectivités locales et de leurs groupements, et à toute personne publique ou privée pour l'exécution de tous travaux, constructions, installations et travaux divers.

Elles portent notamment sur la maîtrise de l'urbanisation avec par exemple :
- l'interdiction de construire sur le littoral dans une bande de 100 mètres à compter du rivage sauf s'il s'agit d'espaces déjà urbanisés, de constructions liées aux services publics ou à des activités nécessitant la proximité de l'eau ;
- l'instauration de la bande des trois mètres sur les propriétés privées riveraines du domaine public maritime qui sont grevées d'une servitude longitudinale destinée à assurer exclusivement le passage des piétons ;
- l'extension de l'urbanisation en continuité des espaces urbanisés ou sous forme de hameaux nouveaux intégrés à l'environnement.

Elles portent aussi sur la préservation des espaces remarquables littoraux. Ces espaces appartiennent à des systèmes beaucoup plus vastes, incluant l'estran et les parties terrestres et bien souvent les enjeux de la biodiversité doivent être posés à ces échelles. Aussi la loi contraint-elle les communes à déclarer l'inconstructibilité de ces espaces du fait de leurs caractères patrimoniaux, culturels ou écologiques. Il peut s'agir de dunes, falaises, plans d'eau ou encore de forêts littorales. Des aménagements légers sont cependant permis dans le cadre de l'accès de ces lieux au public, de leur valorisation, de leur exploitation ou de leur gestion. Une commune qui ne respecterait pas cet objectif d'identification des espaces remarquables sur le littoral et de classement dans un zonage bénéficiant d'une protection élevée est susceptible de voir son plan local d'urbanisme annulé.

c. Quelques outils complémentaires la création d'aires protégées foncières

La recommandation n°25 met en exergue le rôle de l'intervention foncière pour préserver des zones d'intérêt spécial. Celle-ci est particulièrement adaptée dans deux cas : lorsque la pression qui s'exerce sur l'espace naturel est très forte, comme sur le littoral, ou, à l'inverse,

dans des espaces marqués par l'abandon de modes de gestion traditionnels qui en assuraient la conservation, comme dans les zones humides.

En France, l'intervention foncière sur les espaces naturels est portée par les structures suivantes :

- l'Office national des forêts qui assure la gestion des forêts publiques (et de vastes espaces dunaires sur la côte Atlantique) ;
- les départements, à travers la politique des espaces naturels sensibles qui vise des objectifs de protection des espaces naturels et leur ouverture au public (tous les départements littoraux métropolitains ont mis en œuvre une telle politique) ;
- les conservatoires d'espaces naturels, les acquisitions foncières ne représentant néanmoins qu'environ 10 % des surfaces relevant de ces structures associatives ;
- et principalement le Conservatoire de l'espace littoral et des rivages lacustres qui a été spécifiquement créé dans ce but en 1975. Près de 155 000 hectares, 800 sites naturels et 1 700 kilomètres de côtes sont à ce jour protégés par cet établissement public sous tutelle du ministère chargé de l'écologie.

L'acquisition en pleine propriété des espaces naturels constitue un mode d'intervention qui rend particulièrement efficace la protection dès lors que l'on veut la rendre définitive ou agir directement sur le territoire, par exemple pour l'ouvrir au public ou en assurer la gestion environnementale. C'est la raison pour laquelle les espaces acquis par les départements, les conservatoires d'espaces naturels ou le Conservatoire du littoral sont considérés en France comme des aires protégées, au même titre que des mesures de protection réglementaires (réserves naturelles, parcs nationaux, ...).

Sur le littoral, d'autres outils fonciers, complémentaires à l'acquisition en pleine propriété, sont venus compléter ce dispositif et sont mis en œuvre plus particulièrement par le Conservatoire de l'espace littoral et des rivages lacustres. C'est ainsi qu'il recourt au droit de préemption qui permet de contrôler les transactions foncières dans une zone déterminée. Le Conservatoire peut intervenir sur les zones de préemption classées au titre des espaces naturels sensibles, par délégation ou substitution du Département, ou peut créer des zones de préemption propre. L'intervention foncière n'a pas en effet nécessairement besoin de l'acquisition totale d'un espace naturel. Selon le contexte**,** une zone de préemption peut jouer un rôle suffisamment dissuasif sur la spéculation foncière et les éventuels projets d'urbanisation ou d'artificialisation. Un vaste espace naturel du littoral peut donc être durablement protégé dès lors que les zones qui exigent une intervention active sont acquises et où le reste de l'espace est placé sous veille foncière active où l'acquisition est possible mais n'est pas obligatoire. En revanche, il est bien souvent difficile d'envisager des mesures de gestion effectives de restauration ou d'ouverture au public sans acquisition foncière.

Par ailleurs, il n'y a pas en France de dispositif de « servitudes environnementales » comparables à ce qui existe en Europe du Nord et dans les pays anglo-saxons, et qui correspondent à un transfert volontaire de la part d'un propriétaire foncier d'une partie de ses droits de propriété, éventuellement contre rétribution. Cependant, deux outils s'en rapprochent :

- la « servitude non aedificandi » prévue par le code civil à laquelle le Conservatoire du littoral a recours de manière exceptionnelle, dans le souci de mettre en place une cohérence de gestion entre les sites qu'il a acquis et ceux de propriétaires privés qui sont par exemple enclavés entre ses terrains. Cette servitude alors librement consentie

par le propriétaire du bien immobilier (en contre-partie de l'engagement par exemple que le Conservatoire ne l'acquiert pas) signifie qu'il ne peut pas édifier de construction, d'établir de plantation etc... Elle fait l'objet d'un acte notarié publié.

- « l'obligation réelle environnementale » telle que prévue dans le projet de loi cadre sur la biodiversité qui devrait, une fois la loi votée, permettre à un propriétaire foncier de passer un contrat avec un établissement public ou une personne morale afin de faire naître des obligations à visée environnementale. Le contrat ne peut être valide qu'après accord du preneur, et les obligations sont transmissibles aux preneurs successifs jusqu'à expiration du contrat qui doit préciser la durée de l'obligation et les conditions de résiliation.

S'ils contribuent à la conservation des milieux naturels en dehors des zones protégées, ces outils peuvent s'avérer très coûteux sur le long terme et ne peuvent donc pas être utilisés en substitution d'une maîtrise foncière publique, seulement en complément.

d. La gestion intégrée du trait de côte français

L'évolution du trait de côte résulte de l'interaction entre des processus naturels (érosion, submersion, transport de sédiment) et des actions anthropiques (comme la réalisation d'ouvrages de protection dans le but de préserver des enjeux localisés à proximité qui est parfois devenue une cause indirecte mais majeure de l'évolution régressive du trait de côte). La complexité de cette interaction conduit à des évolutions contrastées du trait de côte qu'il devient nécessaire de suivre et d'anticiper, surtout dans un contexte de changement climatique.

C'est dans cette optique que l'État a mis en place une stratégie nationale de gestion intégrée du trait de côte, annoncée par le premier ministre en mars 2012, qui se décline en quatre axes :

- développer l'observation du trait de côte et identifier les territoires à risque érosion pour hiérarchiser l'action publique,
- élaborer des stratégies partagées entre les acteurs publics et privés,
- évoluer vers une doctrine de recomposition spatiale du territoire,
- préciser les modalités d'intervention financière.

Elle a pour objectif de mieux considérer la dynamique des écosystèmes littoraux et recommande ainsi de ne pas « fixer le trait de côte », en particulier là où des ouvrages en dur pourraient avoir des impacts sur les écosystèmes naturels de manière difficilement réversible. Des alternatives à l'artificialisation existent : la stratégie nationale propose d'ailleurs des techniques de génie écologique côtier, des opérations de « gestion douce » ou « souple », la mise en œuvre de systèmes de protection sur des échelles territoriales plus larges prenant en compte les espaces de dissipation de l'énergie marine, les zones humides, les casiers, les digues secondaires, ainsi que la relocalisation des usages et des biens.

De nouveaux modes d'intervention se mettent donc progressivement en place, consistant à composer avec les agents naturels plutôt qu'à s'y opposer. La gestion souple des dunes permet ainsi, outre son intérêt écologique, de conserver la mobilité du cordon littoral sableux et de maintenir une réserve de sable pour l'alimentation des plages. La protection des massifs dunaires peut se traduire par la canalisation de la fréquentation et par la sensibilisation du public (panneaux informatifs, aires de stationnement déplacées en arrière, etc) afin de limiter le piétinement des zones sensibles et de permettre aux végétaux de croître « tranquillement ». La préservation des herbiers et des mangroves est aussi un enjeu de cette stratégie afin que ces

écosystèmes jouent un rôle d'atténuateur naturel de houle. Le Conservatoire du littoral mènera, en outre, une dizaine d'expérimentations de gestion innovantes visant à recréer des zones de dynamique littorale libre, par exemple par effacement, reconfiguration ou recul des ouvrages de protection du littoral (digues, épis, enrochements…) ou par la renaturation de petits estuaires.

Toutes ces initiatives, au carrefour des politiques de préservation de la biodiversité et de prévention des risques, constituent des démarches innovantes pour la conservation des milieux naturels littoraux en dehors des zones protégées.

e. La protection du milieu marin et la recherche de coordination via la DCSMM

La directive-cadre stratégie pour le milieu marin (DCSMM) du 17 juin 2008 constitue le pilier environnemental de la politique maritime intégrée de l'Union européenne. Son objectif est de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour réaliser ou maintenir un bon état écologique du milieu marin au plus tard en 2020, en appliquant à la gestion des activités humaines une approche fondée notamment sur la notion d'écosystème.

En France, cette directive s'applique aux eaux marines métropolitaines, depuis les lignes de base jusqu'à la limite de nos eaux sous juridiction (200 milles marins), y compris le sol et le sous-sol. Elle s'applique également aux eaux côtières telles que définies par la directive-cadre sur l'eau (DCE), y compris les fonds marins et le sous-sol, dans la mesure où les aspects particuliers liés à l'état écologique du milieu marin ne sont pas déjà couverts par la DCE ou tout autre acte législatif communautaire (notamment la directive concernant la gestion de la qualité des eaux de baignade).

Pour chaque sous-région marine (Manche-Mer du Nord, Golfe de Gascogne, Méditerranée occidentale, Mers celtiques), un plan d'action pour le milieu marin (PAMM) doit être élaboré et mis en œuvre. Il comporte cinq éléments :

- une évaluation initiale de l'état écologique des eaux marines et de l'impact environnemental des activités humaines sur ces eaux ;
- la définition du bon état écologique reposant sur des descripteurs qualitatifs ;
- la définition d'objectifs environnementaux et d'indicateurs associés en vue de parvenir à un bon état écologique du milieu marin ;
- un programme de surveillance en vue de l'évaluation permanente de l'état des eaux marines et de la mise à jour périodique des objectifs ;
- un programme de mesures qui doit permettre de parvenir à un bon état écologique des eaux marines ou à conserver celui-ci.

Cette directive-cadre doit renforcer la cohérence entre les différentes politiques et favoriser l'intégration des préoccupations environnementales dans d'autres politiques (pêche, tourisme, transport) afin de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour réduire les impacts des activités sur le milieu marin et de les fédérer et les amplifier de manière coordonnée. Parmi ces mesures, le PAMM peut contenir des mesures de protection spatiales contribuant à créer un réseau de zones marines protégées cohérent et représentatif de la diversité des écosystèmes.

Au niveau national comme au niveau local, les parties prenantes sont les services de l'État et les établissements publics (dont l'Ifremer, l'agence des aires marines protégées et les agences de l'eau), les élus des collectivités territoriales, les acteurs de l'économie maritime et littorale, les acteurs du monde scientifique, les associations de protection de l'environnement.

Après la notification par le ministère chargé de l'écologie à la Commission européenne des trois premiers éléments des PAMM fin 2012, l'élaboration par les autorités compétentes des deux derniers éléments opérationnels, programmes de surveillance et programmes de mesures, se poursuit et donnera lieu d'ici 2015-2016 à un panel de mesures nouvelles ou déjà existantes qui intégreront pleinement les enjeux de protection du littoral et des milieux marins.

3. <u>Préservation des espaces naturels lors de la mise en œuvre d'études d'impact sur l'environnement</u>

a. **Renforcement des études d'impact sur l'environnement** : la publication du décret no 2011-2019 du 29 décembre 2011 portant réforme des études d'impact des projets de travaux, d'ouvrages ou d'aménagements a mis en conformité la réglementation française avec la directive européenne. Elle prévoit en particulier une procédure d'étude d'impact au « cas par cas », pour les projets, même de faible ampleur, mais susceptibles d'avoir un impact sur des milieux écologiquement sensibles. Par ailleurs il renforce la prise en compte des milieux naturels, en précisant les thèmes à étudier : faune et flore, habitats naturels, continuités écologiques, équilibres biologiques, espaces naturels, forestiers …

b. **élaboration d'une doctrine « éviter, réduire, compenser » en 2012**, qui vise à promouvoir le projet « de moindre impact », et rappelle qu'il faut éviter de porter atteinte aux enjeux écologiques majeurs, qui sont définis comme ceux relatifs à la biodiversité remarquable (espèces menacées, sites Natura 2000, réservoirs biologiques, cours d'eau en très bon état écologique, …), aux principales continuités écologiques (axes migrateurs, continuités identifiées dans les schémas de cohérence écologique, …). Il convient également d'intégrer les services écosystémiques clés au niveau du territoire. Cette doctrine, élaborer avec tous les acteurs concernés, a été largement diffusée, et constitue un document de base pour les services.

c. **Rédaction des lignes directrices nationales sur la séquence éviter, réduire, compenser les impacts sur les milieux naturels** (publication en octobre 2013).
Les obligations légales faites aux maîtres d'ouvrage d'Éviter, de Réduire et de Compenser les impacts de leurs projets sur les milieux naturels, ont pour finalité de promouvoir un mode de développement intégrant les objectifs de la transition écologique, en favorisant une gestion raisonnée de l'utilisation des habitats naturels (qui peuvent, le cas échéant faire l'objet d'une exploitation agricole ou forestière) et d'atteindre nos objectifs en termes de préservation et d'amélioration des écosystèmes et de leurs services.

Dès 2009, le Ministère du développement durable a initié une réflexion partenariale avec les représentants des établissements publics, des collectivités locales, du secteur privé et de la société civile afin de bâtir une méthodologie commune à la démarche « éviter, réduire, compenser ». Les travaux réalisés ont permis d'élaborer une doctrine nationale (mai 2012) rappelant les principes clés devant guider l'application de la « séquence ERC », ainsi qu'un document méthodologique « les lignes directrices » (octobre 2013).
Ce guide méthodologique, composé de 31 fiches thématiques, décline la séquence ERC en recommandations pratiques. Les fiches sont abordées dans l'ordre chronologique d'élaboration d'un projet. Elles soulignent l'importance de la

concertation entre toutes les parties prenantes et ciblent les étapes clés de la réalisation de projets :

- L'élaboration, afin de concevoir le projet de moindre impact, d'estimer l'impact résiduel, puis de définir les mesures compensatoires ainsi que les objectifs de gestion.
- La validation du projet dans le cadre des procédures d'instruction et des demandes d'autorisation.
- La mise en œuvre et le suivi des mesures environnementales, puis leur contrôle.

Annexes à ce rapport

Annexe 1

Cinquième rapport national de la France à la Convention sur la diversité biologique : http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/Nature/EcoNetworks/Documents/2014/Annexe1_rapport_France_2014.pdf

Annexe 2

Executive summary: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/Nature/EcoNetworks/Documents/2014/Annexe2_rapport_France_2014.pdf

LIECHTENSTEIN

AMT FÜR UMWELT
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Follow-up of Recommendation No. 25 (1991) in Liechtenstein

Every building activities (as well as agricultural ameliorations) outside of the official building zones need permissions from the nature conservation authority in Liechtenstein. The law of nature and landscape protection (Gesetz zum Schutz von Natur und Landschaft, LGBl 1996 Nr. 117) is the legal basis for the lawsuit. The establishment of a new building zone and building activities within the existing building zones, which affect objects of special natural interest or cause scenic adverse effects, need permission from the nature conservation authority as well.

In this lawsuit the nature conservation authority surveys the effects of the building activities on nature and landscape. The office of environment has the possibility to direct constraints or asking for compensating measures if the building activity harms nature or landscape. Permissions for building activities will be denied, if there are no constraints or compensating measures, which could make the building activity environmental-friendly enough. If permission is granted by the national office of environment, non-government-organisations have the possibility to take legal action.

Besides the nature protection and landscape protection zones, which are protected by law, Liechtenstein has an inventory of areas and objects of special conservation interest. This inventory is public and can be found on the following webpage: http://geodaten.llv.li/geoshop/naturlandschaft.html.
Building activities within areas of special conservation interest are surveyed closer and deeper by the national conservation authority as all other activities outside of these areas.

For all bigger building projects, e.g. the construction of a new motorway, an assessment of environmental effects has to be done.

The inventory of areas and objects of special conservation interest includes important areas for flora and fauna, areas with a special landscape and woods with a special ecological function. E.g. extensive meadows are considered as important areas for flora and fauna and the national office of environment subsidises farmers to manage their grasslands ecologically. The newest surveying and mapping published in 2013 shows that the extensively managed grassland areas only hardly decreased since 1990, when the subsidy system was introduced. The report is online at: http://www.llv.li/files/au/pdf-llv-au-sonderband_magerstandorte_band29.pdf.

About 41 % of the area of Liechtenstein is covered with forests. About 7 % of the state territory is natural forests. They are left in its natural state by letting biological cycles occur freely. This also includes the recycling of dead wood.

The so called Nature Watch was established to raise awareness about nature values. They are active inside and outside the Nature protection sites and directed by the national office of environment. They have also the task to report violation of existing laws to the office.

For further questions please contact me by e-mail (oliver.mueller@llv.li).

Yours faithfully

Oliver Müller
Head of Bureau Nature and Landscape

MOLDOVA / MOLDOVA

REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA ON THE SITUATION REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS INCLUDED IN RECOMMENDATION N° 25 (1991) ON THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL AREAS OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS PROPER

The biodiversity conservation is still integrated to an insufficient extent in the documentation of policies and legislation with sectoral aspect and the impact of the activities from various economic fields is directed towards environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.

The main activities that have generated considerable pressure on natural habitats and, simultaneously, on biodiversity are caused by the economic activity from various sectors, including: forestry, agriculture, fishing, hunting, transportation, etc.

For example: merging and expansion of agricultural lands has become a major cause of the disappearance of natural habitats and degradation of natural ecosystems and the use of irrigation systems has caused secondary salinization and alkalization of the soil, which led to the destruction of the existing biota.

A strong negative impact has been caused by drainage works, deforestation or indirect pollution. They have caused the disappearance of habitats outside the agricultural lands. In the Republic of Moldova has been made a series of works on land reclamation related to the inclusion in the agricultural circuit of floodplain soils, marshlands, small lakes.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROBLEMS AT THE SECTORAL LEVEL

Agriculture

Agriculture in Moldova exerts a strong impact on biodiversity at all levels: genetic, species, populations, habitats and ecosystems. That is why it is very important to incorporate the aspects regarding biological diversity conservation in the field of agriculture.

The territory of the Republic of Moldova is characterized by a high degree of fragmentation of natural ecosystems with a high rate (73.8) of agricultural ecosystems. The peculiarities of the geographical position of the country, its comparatively small territory (33.8 thousand km2) cause a high degree of interaction between the natural and agricultural complexes. The Agrarian policy of the 60s – 80s of the twentieth century, oriented toward intensification, concentration and specialization of the agricultural sector has caused great harm to nature, favouring multiple negative processes.

Legislative and normative acts in the agricultural sector:

- Law on organic food production (2005),
- National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Agro-Industrial Sector in the Republic of Moldova (2008-2015),
- National Programme on organic food production (2006),
- Regulation on the methods and principles of organic food production (2006),
- Regulation on inspection and certification system for organic food production (2006),
- Rules regarding the import and export of organic food products (2006),
- Agricultural land consolidation programme (2006),
- Food security strategy for the years 2011-2015,
- The Complex Programme to protect the soil against erosion for the years 2003-2012,
- National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (2000) and others which concern the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.

The agricultural sector significantly influences the environment, and the market of organic products is developing rapidly. This fact became a prerequisite for the integration of environmental elements in agricultural policies and practices. For this purpose, in recent years, in Moldova has been developed a set of legislative and normative acts.

The general causes of the deterioration of agricultural biodiversity are:

- ✓ at **ecosystems** and **habitats** level: the disappearance or degradation of wetlands, forest reserves, hedges. This has directly influenced the decrease of habitats for many species of insects, birds, amphibians, mammals, higher and lower plants (e.g. habitats of dragonfly, common snipe (Gallinago Gallinago), different hydrophilic plant species);
- ✓ at **species** level: the use of herbicides causes harm to the commensal species and the use of insecticides – to microfauna. The development cycles of many organisms are distorted.

  Mechanization and soil fertilization cause changes of the balance between species;
- ✓ at **genetic** level: the number of species, varieties, breeds used is decreasing, and the monoculture favours this process. The irreversible genetic erosion of plant and animal species takes place.

The excessive use of pesticides in agriculture had extremely negative consequences on biodiversity. The violation of the rules of storage, transportation and use of pesticides caused the destruction of many communities of plants, animals, microorganisms and fungi. In the 80s chemical methods were used on an area of about 4.0 million ha. In orchards were practiced by 10 - 12 chemical processing, resulting in the decrease dozens of times of the pollinating fauna.

The use of irrigation systems caused secondary salinization and alkalization of the soil of the country. The secondary alkalinization, influenced by the irrigation water, led to a rapid degradation of soils (especially of black earth) and to the reduction or destruction of the existing biota.

The agricultural activities listed favored the loss of biodiversity in agro-landscapes, affecting many species of herbaceous plants, animals, microorganisms and productive pastures by:

- ✓ exploitation of inappropriate land for agricultural practices, which resulted in losses of unique habitats. Different species adapted to extreme conditions of existence (salty soils, bogs, etc.) become extinct as a result of land reclamation works, plowing, sowing different crops, etc. In the 80s of the last century in the country were used over 50 thousand ha of such lands.
- ✓ drainage, deforestation and indirect pollution. They caused the disappearance of nonagricultural habitats.

In the Republic of Moldova, a series of works on land reclamation related to the inclusion in the agricultural circuit of floodplain soils, marshlands, small lakes were made. The total land area of marshlands and swamp lands in 1960 was about 26 000 ha. In the period 1970-1985 this area was reduced due to the drainage works carried out on many of them, straightening beds of small rivers. These places were inhabited by many species of animals (otter, European mink, stoat, swan, greylag goose, heron, etc.) and plants (stevia, white lotus, water caltrop, Orchis palustris, floating fern etc.) whose number decreased sharply.

Spatial planning, infrastructure and urban planning

In the Republic of Moldova, spatial planning and landscaping activities are conducted according to the Law on spatial and urban planning, Law on regional development in the Republic of Moldova and the Concept of sustainable development of the localities of the Republic of Moldova.

The present territory of the Republic of Moldova is characterized by a high degree of anthropogenic exploitation and a relatively small share of natural landscapes. The processes of industrialization and urbanization in the last decades have greatly intensified the anthropogenic impact on the environment. The degree of landscape deterioration in the Republic of Moldova is very high due to the extensive agriculture and high population density, the agricultural lands constituting 73.8% (2014) of the country.

Under influence of natural, historical and economic factors, the network of settlements of the Republic of Moldova is characterized by a high density (5 villages per 100 km2), a relatively uniform distribution of localities throughout the territory of the country and the predominance of large rural settlements. A peculiarity of the human settlements network consists in the predominance of linear rural agglomerations, which constitutes prerequisites for their development in the system, which in turn can favour the realization of the urban plans of the villages.

One of the national problems related to the territorial organization of the country is the conservation of the natural territories in optimal condition in terms of number and size, which ensure the conservation of the biological diversity, maintenance of the ecological balance in the country, and the conservation and restoration of the natural landscapes with enhanced aesthetic qualities in order to meet the requirements of the population regarding the diversity of recreational activities, leisure and entertainment.

The continuous extension of the localities and areas of economic interest exerts an increasing pressure on natural habitats. The reduction and fragmentation of the areas of distribution of species and natural habitats leads to the extinction of some species of flora and fauna. They are especially affected by the development of transport infrastructure, the expansion of agricultural and forest monocultures, the urban noise, the human factor and the industrial pollution. The intensive exploitation of natural resources leads to undermining the functioning capacity of natural ecosystems.

In order to stop the process of fragmentation of habitats/landscapes and to moderate the overuse of natural resources, to designate the areas where the natural processes could have favourable conditions to manifest themselves, a fundamental step is the application of the territorial systematization according to the programs and provisions of the development strategies, the provisions of the national programs on the development of various sectors and activities as well as the development of plans at regional level, creating the framework of the harmonious development of the territory.

In the process of spatial planning, the distribution of natural ecosystems, of rare, vulnerable and endangered species of animals and plants and other requirements of environmental protection are not taken into account.

The urban planning toolkit is obsolete. For the most localities of the Republic of Moldova, the urban plans were developed during the 80s -90s of the twentieth century. Currently, the general urban plans of few localities are renewed.

The insufficient level of monitoring and coordination of building of factories and dwelling houses has lead to the spread of the "illegal building" practice.

There is a disproportion between the balanced socio-economic development of territories and localities and the rational use of natural resources and their protection.

Forestry

The forest resources of the Republic of Moldova are made up of the forest fund resources and the forest vegetation on the lands beyond it.

The National Forest Fund constitutes 12.7% of the territory. Most of the lands covered by forests (87.2%) are in state ownership, the rest being owned by mayoralties (12.2%) and only 0.8% - by private owners. The communal and private forest fund is continuously increasing in terms of quantity and ecological importance.

The main policy document in the field of forestry is: the Strategy on Sustainable Development of the Forest Sector in the Republic of Moldova, approved by Parliament Decision no. 350-XV of July 12, 2001.

The main objective of the Strategy is to achieve a degree of afforestation in the Republic of Moldova of 15% by 2020, covering with forest vegetation 130 thousand ha. This volume is stated in another policy document - Programme for Exploring New Lands and Increasing Soil Fertility for 2003- 2010, approved by Government Decision no. 636 of May 26, 2003.

And, during the years 2001-2011, for the realization of actions stipulated in the Action Plan on the protection of forest ecosystems from the Biological Diversity Conservation National Strategy and Action Plan (2001), and other programs and strategies in the field of forestry or which have tangency with this field, the following objectives were achieved:

- ✓ while planning the forest work in the reference period, the focus was primarily on the protection of the biotopes and rare and endangered species. The rare and endangered wood species, according to the Rules of issuing standing timber in the forests, are harvested only when they are dried up.
- ✓ in order to elaborate some normative acts in order to encourage the creation of the private forest fund in the National Action Plan FLEG and the Programme ENPI / FLEG were developed recommendations on the new structure of the Forest Code, which contains a separate chapter "Administration and Management of forest fund private property". According to General Cadastre approved by Government Decision at 01.01.2012, the private forest area constitutes 2375 ha. These are the forests created on private land. At the same time, recommendations to the Regulation on the forest regime of communal and private forests were elaborated.
- ✓ In order to elaborate and approve normative acts regarding forest fund monitoring, use of forests for recreational purposes, by the Government Decision no. 740 of 19 June 2003 was approved the Regulation on forest land use for recreational purposes and scientific research.
- ✓ Later, in accordance with Government Decision no. 187 of 20.02.2008 was approved the Regulation on renting the forest fund for hunting management and / or recreational purposes. at the option: "Modification of the institutional framework of the state forest fund management by separating of the functions of promotion of the policy in the field from those of economic activity, separating the state control from the departmental one", the Agency "Moldsilva" with the support of the World Bank and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), within the project ENPI / FLEG elaborated in 2012 the project "Forestry Institutional Reform Strategy in Moldova ".

The general objective of the strategy is - to reform the forestry sector in order to increase its contribution to improving the quality of life, on the basis of the efficient and sustainable management of forests. As a result of the implementation of the Strategy, the functions of promoting the policies and controlling the management of the forest fund will be divided clearly.

- ✓ in order to achieve the objective: “elaboration and implementation of the national programme on ecological reconstruction of degraded forests and increase of forest areas” the Agency "Moldsilva" by the order no. 90 of 04.04.2012 approved the Technical norms regarding the ecological reconstruction of forest stands. These norms provide for methods and technologies on restoration, replacement and improvement of low productive, derived degraded and inappropriate to the environmental conditions forest stands. The Government approved in 2003, by the Decision no. 737 of 17.06.2003 the State Programme on regeneration and afforestation of forest fund lands for 2003-2020. This programme provides for the creation of forest cultures on a surface of 24655 ha, helping the natural regeneration on a surface of 39036 ha and the natural regeneration on a surface of 31427 ha. During the period 2002-2011 in the forest fund managed by the Agency "Moldsilva", forest cultures were established on an area of 9515 ha, works meant to help the natural regeneration were performed on an area of 19934 ha and were left under natural regeneration 5116 ha. In 2005, was published the manual (teaching material)

"Ecological Reconstruction".

For information: in the period 2001-2011, in the forest fund, state public property, ecological restoration measures were carried out on a surface of 3792 ha. In reserves, the ecological reconstruction works are coordinated and reviewed annually by the commission attended by representatives of the Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Environment.

After analyzing the Action Plan of the Strategy from 2001 it was established that certain actions of the plan were not fulfilled because of the lack of cooperation between the institutions responsible for its implementation.

In order to overcome the gaps and obstacles of the legal / normative framework, a more effective cooperation between the relevant authorities is necessary, as well as to increase the share of financial resources to resolve the problems related to biodiversity.

Pisciculture

The problems concerning the protection and improvement of aquatic biological resources of natural water bodies are:

1. The substitution of economically valuable fish species with species with low growth and low economic value. Of the total number of fish species found in the natural aquatic basins of the Republic of Moldova, 13.8% have rarity status.
2. Invasion of the reservoirs (especially Dubasari and the Middle Nistru sector) with aquatic vegetation consisting of lacustrine and paludous plants, which contributes to the initiation of swamping.

Because of the discharge of water reserves from reservoirs (from Novodnestrovsc, Ukraine) the phytofile fish species cannot use the spawning places from the middle of Nistru River and the area of the spawning places of the Dubasari reservoir is insufficient.

The regulation of the manner and conditions for the creation and protection of the fish stock, breeding, growth and obtaining of hydrobionts, improvement of the water bodies where fish live, the development of fish farming, the activity of the public authorities charged with the management of aquatic biological resources are stipulated in the **Law no. 149 of 08.06.2006 on fish stock, fishing and fish farming**.

In order to regulate the procedure of the use of fish resources from the water bodies of the Republic of Moldova, it has been developed and approved the **Regulation on the authorization of fishing in natural water bodies** (Government Decision no. 888 from 06.08.2007).

Regarding the protection of fish resources, the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Romania on cooperation for the protection of fish resources and regulation of fishing in the Prut River and in the reservoir Stânca – Costesti (from 01.08.2003) was concluded.

The main fields of cooperation are:

- ✓ sustainable management and exploitation of fish resources from the Prut river and the reservoir Stânca -Costesti;
- ✓ development of aquaculture;
- ✓ cooperation in the field of scientific research on fish resources.

Under the aegis of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes at which the riverside countries are parties, was elaborated and signed the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Romania on cooperation for the protection and sustainable use of Prut and Danube waters (signed in Chisinau, June 28, 2010).

It was also signed The Protocol on intents of collaboration in the field of ecological recovery of the Nistru River basin (Moldova and Ukraine). The Ministry of Environment initiated (November 2013) the elaboration of the Management Plans of the Nistru River Basin District and Danube-Prut River Basin District and the Black Sea in accordance with the provisions of the Law no. 272 of December 23, 2011 and the Government Decision no. 866 of November 1, 2013 on approving the Regulation on the procedure for elaboration and review of the Management Plan of the river basin district.

The necessary measures for the protection and improvement of the state of aquatic biological resources from natural water bodies are:

1. Conducting common ichthyologic studies (with specialists from Romania and Ukraine), including providing a data exchange, taking measures on the current situation, trends, opportunities for conservation/restoration and sustainable use of fish resources in transboundary natural water bodies;
2. Ensuring a continuity of improvement measures of pisciculture by the repopulation of the reservoirs from Dubasari and Stânca - Costesti with native species of fish, including rare and endangered species, to the extent that will ensure the maintenance and increase of the number of fish due to the continuous reproduction of these species;
3. Taking measures on fishing regulation by establishing the allowed sizes for fishing some species, taking into account the growth in the current environmental conditions, limiting the industrial/commercial fishing in some sectors of the aquatic basins in order to avoid overfishing;
4. The creation of a center for breeding valuable fish species with the status ameliorative piscicultural center for natural water bodies;
5. Intensification of the protection of the fish resources in natural water bodies, preventing the cases of poaching and irrational use of fish resources;
6. Providing consultative assistance to the local public administration in organizing and conducting the prohibition of fishing during the spawning season;
7. Public information and drawing the attention of civil society (NGOs, initiative groups, etc.) on national actions concerning the protection of aquatic biological resources in natural water bodies of RM.

NORWAY/ NORVÈGE

Submission on Recommendation no. 25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas from Norway

We refer to your request for update on Norway's follow-up of Recommendation no. 25 dated 14th March. In general we refer to our most recent biannual report to the Convention for an update on our compliance with relevant recommendations. This report concentrates on national tools, mechanisms and activities that are relevant to the conservation of nature outside of protected areas and that may be of interest for the Bern Convention community.

General measures for promoting ecological management of the environment as a whole
The most important tool for conservation of areas outside of protected areas is the Norwegian Act relating to the management of biological, geological and landscape diversity (Nature Diversity Act) of 2009. The purpose of the Act (cf. section 1) is to protect nature, its biological, landscape and geological diversity and ecological processes through sustainable use and conservation. The environment should be the basis for human activity, culture, health and wellbeing, now and in the future, including as a basis for Sami culture. The Nature Diversity Act is applicable to Norwegian land territory, including river systems, and to Norwegian territorial waters. The act applies for all sectors of society that perform activities affecting nature, as for example planning and building, fisheries, road construction, oil activity and forestry. According to section 2 of the act, it applies to Norwegian land territory, including freshwater lakes and water courses, and to territorial marine waters. Separate acts apply for the islands of Svalbard and Jan Mayen.

Chapter II of the act gives general provisions on sustainable use. Section 4 gives management objectives for habitat types and ecosystems, while section 5 gives the same for species. Section 6 states a general duty of care, as anyone shall act with care and take all reasonable steps to avoid causing damage to biological, geological and landscape diversity contrary to the objectives set out in sections 4 and 5. If an activity is carried out in accordance with a permit issued by an official authority, the duty of care is considered to have been fulfilled. Section 8 to 12 arethe principles for official decision-making. These are the guidelines for the exercise of public authority, including when an administrative agency allocates grants and for the management of real property. All decisions shall state how these principles have been applied in an assessment.

Section 8 on knowledge base requires that, as far as is reasonable, decisions shall be based on scientific knowledge of the population status of the species, the range and ecological status of habitat types, and the impacts of environmental pressures. Section 9 on the precautionary principle requires that when a decision is made in the absence of adequate information of the impacts it may have on the natural environment, the aim shall be to avoid possible significant damage to biological, geological or landscape diversity. If there is a risk of serious or irreversible damage to biological, geological or landscape diversity, lack of knowledge shall not be used as a reason for postponing or not introducing management measures. Section 10 on ecosystem approach and cumulative environmental effects states that any pressure on an ecosystem shall be assessed on the basis of the cumulative environmental effects of the pressure on the ecosystem now or in the future.

Section 11 concerns the user pay principle and it states that the cost associated with preventing or limiting any damage caused by a project to biological, geological and landscape diversity shall be borne by the project owner. Section 12 concerns environmentally sound techniques and methods of operation and states that to prevent or limit damage, siting of industrial and other activities shall produce the best result for society at large and environmentally sound methods and techniques shall be used in activities with an potential impact on the environment.

Agriculture and forestry
Environment-friendly technologies in the agricultural sector is generally promoted and encouraged to reduce negative impact from conventional agricultural activities like destruction of habitats, eutrophication of water ways, erosion etc. This will also result in an increase in ecological products for the market and stimulate extensive and traditional use of the cultural landscapes. The cultural landscapes are significantly important for biological diversity. A collaboration between the environmental sector and the agricultural sector have since the national inventory on cultural landscapes during the mid-1990ies focused on extensive management of both in- and outfield areas important to biological diversity and cultural heritage. 112 sites of cultural landscapes have been identified as nationally important under this program, and funding for appropriate management have been directed to such areas from both agricultural and environmental authorities.

In 2006 the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of the Environment gave an assignment to the Norwegian Agricultural Authority, Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (from 2013 The Norwegian Environment Agency), and the Directorate for Cultural Heritage on managing historical agricultural landscapes of Norway to safeguard their historical features, aesthetic values, biodiversity and accessibility. 22 (500 km2) sites have since 2009 been appointed as Selected Agricultural Landscapes. Emphasis has been placed on the 22 landscapes representing the national identity with reference to landscape types, agricultural adaptation and geographical variation. All 18 counties in Norway have one or more of the 22 Selected Agricultural Landscapes within their jurisdiction. The Norwegian Agricultural Authority leads and coordinates the work in close cooperation with the Nature Management, and Cultural Heritage administrations. Regional Agricultural Authorities, Regional administrators and councils cooperate with the landowners on the management and maintenance of the natural- and cultural heritage in these areas, as well as the maintenance of settlements and industry. The two Ministries contribute financially and earmark funding for the purpose, based on voluntary agreements between the landowners/interested stakeholders and the Government.

Different management tools for semi-natural habitat types have the last years been introduced and several different funding regimes from both the environment and agricultural side are available to fund appropriate management of these sites. National and regional environment programmes established in the agricultural sector aim to fulfill the sectors responsibility to reduce negative effects on the environment and safeguard cultural landscapes. The distribution of funds to biologically important cultural landscapes from the programmes have during the recent years increasingly been based on the documentation of such locations in the national mapping database (Naturbase) of valuable nature types. The change in funding regime has led to a more precise targeting of agricultural environmental funds to the areas most valuable to biodiversity.

Within the forest sector, standards for environmental friendly forestry have been introduced. This includes an obligatory requirement to certify timber producers according to a standard.

Within this standard a requirement to set aside a minimum of 5% of the individual properties as no-logging sites have been included

The Norwegian Environmental impact assessment (EIA) Regulation
The Norwegian legislation relating to EIA provides detailed procedures to be followed for specified types of projects. These are projects that may have an environmental impact either through size, production volume etc., or through the proposed location. The provisions cover impacts on the environment, natural resources and society. In most cases, the EIA process is closely integrated with the land use planning process.

The EIA process focuses on the issues necessary for decision making, including relevant project alternatives. The EIA report should always include a "no go" alternative (the zero option). The EIA provisions allow local and regional environmental authorities, NGOs and other relevant organizations as well as the general public to participate in the process.

The EIA shall provide an environmental baseline and predictions of the possible impacts the project/plan may have on the natural environment. The EIA process may require new mapping to achieve adequate knowledge for decision-making. The EIA should clarify what can be done to adapt the project to the surroundings (mitigation) and to minimize damage or disadvantage, as well as measures to monitor the actual effects of the plan or initiative.

The national Nature Database contains data of species and their sites. The Species Portal organized by the Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre is an important contributor to the knowledge base in the Nature Database. The database is a fundamental tool for the sectors and others in complying with the requirements of the Nature Diversity Act. In relation to any EIA it is obligatory to use the information in the Nature Database.

In addition there is ongoing work ongoing on developing a system for compensation of areas that are negatively affected by technical interventions.

II Areas of special conservation interest
The network of protected sites in Norway at present covers 17% of the mainland. Following the completion of 70 county protection plans and a program for new national parks and landscape protection areas, these now cover a total of 54.866km2. Of these under IUCN category Ia/Ib and II there are now 37 National Parks covering an area of 31.317km2 and 2051 Nature Reserves covering an area of 5.798km2. In addition there are 201 Protected Landscapes of IUCN category IV and V, covering an area of 17.322km2. For Svalbard the total area under protection is now 65% and for Jan Mayen this is 99% of both land and marine jurisdiction area (excluding EEZ). The figures are updated as per 1.1.2014.

For marine areas 2.6% is protected according to the old Nature Conservation Act and the present Nature Diversity Act. The present plan for marine protected areas includes 36 proposed areas, of which 3 areas were established as marine protected areas in 2013. Some other areas are protected by sectorial laws. These are marine conservation areas, including 9 cold water reefs (2.445km2), and a ban on bottom trawl is in force on a further 46 sites. In total an area of 7596km2 as purely marine sites have been established so far in Norway. For Svalbard 87% of the territorial waters is included in protected areas.

Under the Emerald Network program, Norway has proposed 633 sites (43.000km2), now officially listed as candidate Emerald-sites. All of these sites are established as nature protection sites, with varying degree of protection regime.

Norway has identified areas without technical intervention (so called INON-areas) and stricter requirements apply to permit technical installations in such areas, the aim being both to inform planners and land users of the trends and the value of conserving such areas. The INON categorization is independent of the regime of protected areas.

Concerning establishment and funding of private reserves, this has not yet been implemented in Norway.

Voluntary forest protection
Chapter V in the Nature Diversity Act deals with protected areas. In section 49 (activities located outside a protected area which may cause damage within the area) it is stated that:
If an activity for which a permit is required under another statute may have an impact on the conservation value of a protected area, importance shall be attached to this value when deciding whether a permit should be granted, and when setting conditions. The duty of care under section 6 applies to other activities.

Section 11-8 in the Planning and Building Act (2009) gives the opportunity to establish zones requiring special consideration in areas adjacent to/bordering to national parks and protected landscapes. The aim is to prevent degradation of the nature diversity inside the protected areas.

III Ecological corridors
Norwegian protected areas were in 2009 evaluated with respect to their conservation objectives. In 2012, the evaluation was expanded on two issues: (1) how the protected areas function as an ecological network and (2) how robust they will be facing future climate change. These features of protected areas are important in assessing how they will meet their conservation objectives, including their ability to maintain important species, habitats and ecological functions.

The outcome of the evaluation was that the network may generally be strengthened by establishing corridors between selected protected areas in the form of new protected areas or regulation of land use to increase the opportunities for dispersal between protected areas. Such corridors have been identified for protected freshwater, mire, forest and mountain areas.

1. Rights of way of roads, railways and high-voltage lines
Norway holds almost the entire remaining population of the Wild European Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus tarandus*). The population is fragmented into 23 different areas in the mountains of Southern Norway, partly due to human infrastructure like roads, railroads, hydropower magazines and cabins. The species is dependent on corridors for the migration between seasonal habitats. In 2007 the Ministry of the Environment pointed out the ten largest and most important areas as national wild reindeer areas, and processes of regional planning according to the Planning- and building Act was started. The planning process includes 11 counties and 61 municipalities, and the last plans are expected to be approved in 2014 – 2015. The plans will give guidelines for protection and management of wild reindeer habitat outside protected areas, and they will have a special focus on the protection of migration corridors between seasonal habitats, both within and between different wild reindeer areas.

2. Water courses
A national plan for protection of water courses has been completed. The plan includes 341 rivers and restrictions have been posed on each in relation to avoiding interference of their

natural ecology. Norway also adheres to the EU Water Directive. The Water Framework Direcetive (WFD) was transposed into the Norwegian Regulation in a Framework for Water Management in 2007, normally referred to as Vannforskriften (The Water Regulation). Norway has taken full part in the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the WFD since 2001. Norway performed a voluntary implementation of the WFD in selected sub-districts across the country from 2007 until 2009, thus gaining the experience of River Basin Management planning. River Basin Management Plans for the selected sub-districts were adopted by the County Councils in 2009, and approved by the national Government in June of 2010. River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) covering the entire country will be prepared from 2010 until 2015, synchronized with the time schedule of the second cycle of implementation in the EU.

IV Habitat types

-Selected habitat types and prioritized species

A significant contribution to the safeguarding of biological valuable areas of semi-natural habitats and species living in such habitats in Norway is the recent system of selected habitat types and prioritized species, cf. mandate of the Nature Diversity Act.

An example is the identification of *hay meadows* as a selected habitat type under the Nature Diversity Act. Hay meadows are categorized as a threatened and red listed semi-natural nature type since 2010. The identification has resulted in an increased effort in mapping, protection and management of localities of this biologically important nature type. By the end of 2013, 500 areas of biologically important hay meadows are included in a national action plan for this nature type in Norway. Similar actions are established for other habitat types in the cultural landscapes – such as coastal heathlands and pollarded woodlands, the two latter waiting for (May 2014) formal appointment as a selected habitat type.

Cooperation with landowners and the agricultural sector is important in order to secure an effective and long-term management of all semi-natural selected habitat types. Corresponding work is undertaken within several protected areas in Norway where biologically important cultural landscapes are represented.

Management objectives for species are also regulated under The Nature Diversity Act. The objective is to maintain species and their genetic diversity for the long term and to ensure that species occur in viable populations in their natural ranges. Specific protection of species, appointment of species as *priority species* and protection of habitats are used as a set of tools to succeed in the protection of threatened species. Where necessary for the protection of species, areas with specific ecological functions for the species will also be identified.

V Landscape features

The most important step to conserve the environment outside protected areas is the Norwegian Act relating to the management of biological, geological and landscape diversity (Nature Diversity Act) of 2009. The purpose of the Act (cf. section 1) is to protect the nature, its biological, landscape and geological diversity and ecological processes through sustainable use and conservation. All decisions by public agencies shall take account of and emphasize the principles set out in the Nature Diversity Act, and such decisions shall contain a reference to these principles.

The European Landscape Convention CETS No.: 176 was ratified by Norway 23rd of October 2001 and came into force 1st March 2004. The Convention commits us to promote the protection of and to administer and plan the use of all types of landscapes. Norwegian

policy, management, laws and regulations are largely in line with the intentions of the Convention.

The European Landscape Convention distinguishes between mapping and analysis of landscapes. Nature types in Norway (NiN, www.artsdatabanken.no) is a system of habitat description and habitat mapping which also includes a system to identify, classify and map landscape units. The landscape mapping system is under development, but the system has a potential for use in wider landscape analysis and forms a basis that can be used to establish quality measures for landscape management. It is also a possible basis for the monitoring of land use changes. The system may thereby contribute to the analysis of the characteristics of different landscape units and define the pressures that affect them.

Norway's natural and cultural landscapes are important resources for regional and local development. The municipalities have the main responsibility for the management of landscapes, natural diversity, cultural heritage sites/monuments and cultural environments, and areas important for reindeer husbandry and agricultural areas. Planning in accordance with the Planning and Building Act is therefore important in order to protect and develop natural, cultural and landscape values in line with national targets.

The Planning and Building Act shall promote sustainable development in the best interest of individuals, society and future generations. Unless otherwise provided, The Act applies to the entire country, including river systems. Plans pursuant to the Planning and Building Act shall safeguard land resources, landscape qualities and the conservation of valuable landscapes and cultural environment.
Important scenery, cultural environments and landscapes shall be preserved. The Government has adopted some national guidelines e.g. diversified management of the coastal shore zone that takes into account the variety of conditions and needs along the coast. Affected central governments and regional bodies may make objections to proposals regarding the land-use element of the municipal master plans and zoning plans on issues that are of significant national or regional importance (e.g. important landscape features), or proposals that for other reasons are of significant importance to the sphere of responsibility of the body in question. Objections shall be made as early as possible and at the latest within the time limit set for the consultation process for the planning proposal. Rationale must be provided for the objections.

VII Protected landscapes

- Management plan for protected areas

More than 60 % of Norway's protection areas have management plans approved by the management authorities. All new management plans have conservation objectives. In addition, the purpose of protecting the area is described in the regulations for each individual protected area, including the natural and cultural qualities such protection is intended to safeguard and the state that protection is intended to achieve.

Key threats are addressed in the management plans. A national management system which is under implementation is expected to provide effective mechanisms for identifying, and/or mitigating negative impacts of key threats. The system includes management plans with conservation objectives, management measures (practical management), monitoring and reporting. The ambition is that the system can function as a "quality cycle", where monitoring and review of the plan ensures that all parts are appropriate, realistic, efficient and effective. Furthermore, the ambition is that the continuous nature of the process ensures that the management is flexible and can adapt to changing circumstances.

Today 690 out of nearly 2800 protected areas has approved management plans, and there is a need for 750 new plans. In the work with new plans, protected areas where management measures are needed, national parks and Ramsar sites are prioritized.

POLAND / POLOGNE

INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION NO. 25 OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, ADOPTED ON 6 NOVEMBER 1991 ON THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL AREAS OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS PROPER

by the General Directorate for Environmental Protection

Warsaw, 2014

The report below is based on the Recommendation No. 25 (1991) of the Standing Committee of *the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention).* This document recommends that Parties to the Convention examine the possibility, for the purpose of the convention, of taking conservation measures such as those mentioned as examples in the appendix to this recommendation to improve conservation outside the protected areas of categories A and B of the Resolution (73) 30 of the Committee of Ministers.

I. General measures for promoting ecological management of the environment as a whole

1. Submit all projects, plans, programmes and measures with an impact on the natural and semi-natural environment to an examination of environmental compatibility with a view to protecting nature and landscapes and conserving them intact in cases where there is an overriding general interest in doing so.

2. Take care to use agricultural land and forests in a sustainable way by making maximum possible use of natural production capacities and by reducing inputs.

3. Encourage the use of environment-friendly technologies when carrying out technical operations in the natural or semi-natural environment, and replace large-scale single operations by regular maintenance measures which are more evenly distributed in time and space. If it is impossible to avoid affecting natural or semi-natural environments which are worth protecting, ensure that mitigation measures are taken to minimise as much as possible the negative effects of the operations, to restore, or failing this, to replace them by adequate compensation.

The act of 3 October 2008 on the provision of information on the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessments (Official Journal of the Laws of 2013, Item 1235, as amended) lays down the rules on the environmental impact assessment of projects, plans, programmes, etc. The impact assessment, includes among others an analysis of the expected significant environmental effects of the proposed project. Furthermore, it sets out measures envisaged to prevent, reduce or offset in terms of nature conservation the adverse effects on the environment, in particular on the purposes and object of the protection of a Natura 2000 site and the integrity of this site. The authority competent to issue a decision on the environmental conditions is able to indicate an option of the project more environmentally friendly, other than the one proposed by the applicant. He or she is capable to refuse also if the project may have a significant adverse impact on a Natura 2000 site (unless there are sufficient compensation measures), or if the environmental objectives included in a water management plan within a river basin district may not be achieved.

II. Areas of special conservation interest

1. Draw up a detailed inventory of areas of special conservation interest as defined in paragraph 1 of the Standing Committee's Recommendation N° 16 (1989) and ensuring the conservation and management of those areas, when it is not possible or appropriate to include them in protected areas of categories A and B, by taking, in particular, the following measures:

a including those areas in land-use planning zones which enjoy a high level of protection;

b. requiring that any development or activity liable to have an adverse ecological impact on those areas be subject to the authorisation, consultation, or agreement of the nature conservation authorities;

c requiring that any request for permission submitted in accordance with paragraph b above be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment or equivalent assessment making it possible to determine the precise effects of the proposed development or activity on the ecological characteristics which warranted the inclusion of those areas in the inventory;

d. advising government agencies against carrying out, authorising or subsiding developments or activities which are shown by the environmental impact assessment or equivalent assessment adversely to affect significantly those ecological characteristics;

e. granting exceptions to these provisions only under the conditions specified in Article 9 of the convention and in Recommendation N° 15 (1989) of the Standing Committee;

f. taking the necessary measures to ensure that laws and regulations laying down obligations with regard to drainage, use of phytosanitary products, dredging of watercourses, consolidation of land-holdings or other activities liable to harm the natural environment are not compulsorily applicable to areas appearing in the inventory.

Protected areas in Poland include among others: areas strictly protected (nature reserves and national parks) and Natura 2000 sites which are considered as a part of the Emerald Network. The recommendation no. 25 (1991) can apply to the other protected areas in Poland, especially: landscape parks (which are sites of natural, historical and cultural values as well as landscape qualities, in conditions of sustainable development) and protected landscape areas (which are sites of outstanding landscape quality, with diverse ecosystems or tourist and recreational values or those which perform the function of ecological corridors). The values of these 2 types of protected areas are secured by general bans, eg. ban on building constructions closer than 100 m from the river or lake shore, ban on certain construction types that might have a significant adverse impact on environment. Additionally, spatial planning documents in the above mentioned protected areas and their buffer zones need to be approved by a regional director for environmental protection. Moreover, the environmental impact assessment of projects, plans, programmes, etc. includes an analysis of the expected environmental effects of the proposed project on all protected areas.

2. Facilitate the acquisition and management of areas of special conservation interest by the state or other public bodies in particular by taking the following measures:

a Acquisition:

i. establishing a right of pre-emption for the state or other public bodies in respect of land included in the said areas;

ii. authorising land forming part of those areas to be transferred to the state in lieu of inheritance tax;

iii. introducing incentives to encourage gifts and bequests of land included in those areas to the state or to other public bodies, such as tax concessions, the payment of an annuity to donors until their deaths or authorising donors to stay on until their death, as usufructuaries;

b. Management:

i. when a government agency is not in a position to manage land it owns or is responsible for within an area of special interest, arranging for the land to be managed by another government agency or a private person;

ii. authorising the conclusion of long-term management contracts between the government agency that owns or is responsible for the land and a public body or private person;

iii. authorising the nature conservation agency to conclude co-operative agreements with the public body owning or responsible for the land, for the purpose of managing the land concerned.

3. Facilitate the acquisition, conservation and management of areas of special conservation interest by private persons, in particular by taking the following measures:

a. Acquisition:

granting subsidies, loans and tax concessions to private nature conservation organisations for the acquisition of land included in such areas;

b. Conservation:

i. setting up voluntary reserves approved by a government agency and enjoying as such the same level of protection as reserves set up by government agencies themselves;

ii. authorising the imposition by contract of land use restrictions which may be binding upon successors in title;

iii. granting tax concessions to owners or occupiers who comply with these restrictions. It should be possible to apply the concessions to property tax and inheritance tax. In the latter case, it should be possible to grant concessions to heirs who undertake to conserve and manage the areas concerned according to a management plan drawn up by the conservation authorities. In the event of failure to observe the conditions in this plan, inheritance tax would immediately become due;

iv. providing the state with the necessary legal powers to introduce immediate controls prohibiting all potentially harmful activities in the event of a threat to the integrity of an area of special interest and, where necessary, to expropriate the land in question;

c. Management:

i. setting up a system of management agreements, where such a system does not already exist, between the state or another public body on the one hand, and the owners of land included in areas of special interest on the other, whereby the latter undertake to perform or refrain from certain actions in return for fair remuneration and other possible benefits such as tax concessions;

ii. eliminating legal obstacles liable to hamper the conservation of land within areas of special interest, particularly rules prohibiting the owner from including in a farm lease clauses that limit the tenant farmer's freedom, for example with regard to the removal of banks and hedges or the ploughing up of meadowland.

Properties that are in spatial plans dedicated to protected areas can be subject to compulsory purchase by local authority. The property can be purchased in this way only by the state and under the condition that other solutions are not possible (eg. acquisition by a sale agreement). However, this instrument is very rarely applied.

III. Ecological corridors

Encourage the conservation and, where necessary, the restoration of ecological corridors in particular by taking the following measures:

1. Rights of way of roads, railways and high-voltage lines
Authorising agreements between nature conservation authorities and government or other public bodies owning or responsible for such areas with a view to maintaining natural plant cover and preserving the sites of rare or endangered plant species, prohibiting or limiting the use of phytosanitary products and of fire in those areas, as well as restricting the use of machinery to the strict minimum necessary for safety reasons.

Taking measures to restore or to compensate for the loss of ecological corridors caused by the building of new roads and other constructions that prevent animals from migrating or interchanging. In these cases, the responsible authority has to safeguard such crossing routes, for example, by building special tunnels for otters and badgers, by building so-called cerviducts for deer, by closing roads during the spring migrational period for amphibians, or by any other appropriate measures.

2. Watercourses

Maintaining certain watercourses or parts thereof in their natural state, and where necessary restoring them, by prohibiting the building of dams, any straightening or canalisation work and the extraction of materials from their beds, and by maintaining or restoring vegetation along their banks. Ensuring that dredging operations, when they prove essential, do not harm the integrity of the aquatic ecosystem or of the banks.

On other watercourses, limiting canalisation and straightening work to whatever is absolutely essential, providing fish passes across dams, maintaining a minimum flow in low-water periods as far as possible, limiting extraction of materials from the bed and maintaining vegetation along the banks.

Adequate environmental conditions for the implementation of projects, plans, programmes etc. are foreseen during the environmental impact assessment. They include among others such measures as: animal migration passages for infrastructure constructions, fish ladders. Furthermore, the regional director for environmental protection takes into consideration the need to protect animal migration areas when approving spatial planning documents. Besides, trees along roads and rivers due to their high importance especially for animal migration gained special attention in Poland. The decision to cut them off can be issued only after approval of the regional director for environmental protection.

In Poland, a number of activities aimed at restoring the connectivity of wildlife corridors are being carried out. Various analyses have been performed to enhance the connectivity of wildlife corridors, thus enabling the movement of animals and functioning of populations on a national scale. Some of the developed documents are:

- Protection of wildlife connectivity in Poland,
- A map of wildlife corridors, as a part of the Protection of habitats and wildlife corridors of wild fauna along Polish highways project,
- Effectiveness of the protection of wildlife corridors. A concept of legislative changes, prepared by WWF Poland (2011),
- Natura 2000 in spatial planning. Role of ecological corridors (2009).

These are, however, scientific documents that have no legal or planning implications. The project "Biodiversity protection through the establishment of a land-based network of wildlife corridors in Poland" is planned for implementation in the General Directorate for Environmental Protection in the 2014-2016 period. The aim of the project is to evaluate the conservation status and functioning of Poland's seven major wildlife corridors of international importance and a network of national corridors designated as a part of implementation of the European ecological network in Poland. The project will also involve a revision of the corridors' boundaries and the preparation of a basis for a land-based network of wildlife corridors in Poland.

Other activity but conducted on a regional scale is the project "Protection of the refugium of the Carpathian forest fauna – migration corridors" of Pro Carpathia, subsided by Swiss Contribution. The main goal of the project is to protect the refugia through determination and protection of existing ecological corridors, ensuring maintenance of environmental cohesion for animal population and increasing the level of knowledge and awareness of the authorities and local people on the importance of ecological corridors. The determination of corridors will be based on monitoring of some selected indication species with especially high habitat requirements (so called umbrella species), i.e. predators (wolfs, lynxes, bears), hoofed animals (red deer, wild boars, bison, elks) and predatory birds (Aquila pomarina).

There are also a few projects on improving functions of the river corridors, such as the project „Restoration of wildlife corridor connectivity in the Biala Tarnowska River valley" which is carried out in 2010-2014 joint by the regional water and environmental authorities, and co-financed by EU. Another projects concern creating blue wildlife corridors in the Rega and Ina basin and are conducted in the frame of the LIFE Programme. The actions taken under these projects will be among others: building fish passes, creating artificial spawning grounds and enlarging already existing ones prepared

mainly for salmonids, planting trees, installing monitoring devices which will keep record of the fish migrating upstream and downstream.

There are also numerous regional analyses on animal migration routes. For example the analysis of important areas for birds during their nesting and migration period in Western Poland (Wielkopolska), or the database on ecological corridors in Southern Poland (Małopolska) which collects data on animals concentration and migration in order to facilitate the designation of new protected areas.

IV. Habitat types

1. *Ensure the conservation of endangered habitat types such as wetlands, heathlands and dry grasslands by requiring that all projects liable to cause their deterioration or destruction be subject to the permission (or agreement) of the authority responsible for nature conservation.*
2. *Subject permission, once it has been granted, to an obligation, where appropriate, to take suitable compensation measures.*
3. *Set up a system of management agreements, together with financial incentives, to provide for the management of certain habitat types, whether or not they are protected.*

Natural habitats are conserved in Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas. The environmental impact assessment also takes into account impact on the natural habitats. Additionally, destroying of vulnerable habitats is prohibited, if protected species occur there.

Moreover, in 2007-2013 farmers received subsidies in the frame of the Agro-Environmental Programme for extensive management of habitats of high nature values, such as: moss communities, sedges, meadows of the Molinion caeruleae and Cnidion dubii, xerotherimc grasslands, seminatural wet and fresh meadows, Nardus grasslands, salt grasslands, and of other nature sites: active raised bogs, degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration, transition mires and quaking bogs, alkaline fens, xeric sand calcareous grasslands, wet and dry heathlands.

V. Landscape features

Encourage the conservation of landscape features such as streams, ponds, small woods, individual trees, hedges and natural grassland, in particular by taking the following measures:

1. *drawing up in each municipality an inventory of landscape features which should be preserved;*
2. *taking these features into account in the preparation or revision of land-use plans by including them in zones enjoying a high level of protection;*
3. *setting up a system of management agreements for the preservation and, where appropriate, the management of the landscape feature thus protected;*
4. *for each agricultural production unit, establishing, in agreement with the farmer, a conservation plan comprising:*
    a. *an ecological analysis of the unit;*
    b. *a map of landscape features and natural areas to be conserved and, where necessary, restored or reconstituted;*
    c. *practicable and advisable « extensification » methods;*
    d. *setting aside certain plots of land, where appropriate, selected on the basis of an ecological study;*
    e. *a management agreement specifying the results to be achieved, the means needed to achieve them and the amounts to be paid to the farmer by way of compensation or remuneration for services rendered.*

Some of landscape features are protected by legislation that sets out the minimal requirements for farmers. According to this regulation, those farmers who receive direct payments shall not destroy small ponds and trees registered as nature monuments. Small ponds as well as trees and shrubs which don’t exceed 2 m width are included in the surface of land that is subsided by direct payments in

agriculture. There were also financial schemes in the Agro-Environmental Programme that offered subsidies for extensive management of certain habitat types. Furthermore, cutting of single trees and shrubs above 10-year old undergoes permits granted by local authorities.

VI. Ecologically sensitive areas

Set up special regimes applicable to certain areas requiring specific measures on account of their ecological vulnerability and the various kinds of pressure to which they are exposed, including, in particular, the following measures:

1. *Coastlines and adjacent marine areas*

   a. *setting up legal regime for natural areas in the public maritime domain which takes account of the need to preserve the natural habitats comprising them and which regulates activities liable to affect them adversely;*

   b. *instituting binding land-use plans for marine areas which are of special ecological interest or require special protective measures on account of their vulnerability;*

   c. *adopting special planning regulations prohibiting or limiting new development, especially the building of roads, on the coastline;*

   d. *protecting landscape features and habitats characteristic of coastal ecosystems, such as dunes, beaches, cliffs, wetlands, salt marshes and woodlands, by including them in land-use planning zones enjoying the highest level of protection;*

   e. *as far as possible, eliminating the difficulties due to the division of powers between different government agencies on either side of the upper limit of the public maritime domain by setting up a co-ordinating mechanism allowing for the management of the coastline and the adjacent marine areas, particularly protected ones, as a single unit.*

In Poland, 17 marine Natura 2000 sites have been established: 8 SPAs, 8 SACs and one site – Ławica Słupska – which is both a SPA and a SAC at the same time. Protected habitats within the marine Natura 2000 sites include: 1110 - sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time, 1130 - estuaries, 1150 - coastal lagoons, 1160 - large shallow inlets and bays, 1170 - reefs. Other habitats, such as cliffs, annual vegetation of drift lines, different types of sand dunes and Atlantic salt meadows, are also protected in the coastal zone. The following marine species are protected: European river lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis), sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus), twait shad (Alosa fallax), grey seal (Halichoerus grypus), and harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena). In the areas of bird conservation, ducks (eg. long-tailed duck (Clangula hyemalis), velvet scoter (Melanitta fusca)), gulls, terns, grebes and loons are under protection.

In 2013 necessary regulations were adopted in order to facilitate designation of maritime nature reserves. Moreover, in 2011 new categories of waters were introduced in the Water Law Act of 18 July 2001: coastal waters and transitional waters. Poland is conducting a monitoring of the ecological and chemical state of these waters.

According to the act of 21 March 1991 on maritime areas of the Republic of Poland and the maritime administration, a protected coastal area shall run along the sea-coast. The purpose of designing the coastal area is to maintain the sea-coast in accordance with safety and environmental requirements. The area includes a technical stripe (which lies directly by the sea) and a protective stripe. Activities in the coastal area are regulated by the above mentioned act.

2. *Mountains*

   a. *providing for financial means of encouragement along with management agreements to maintain the rural mountain population, while promoting farming methods respectful of natural habitats and the balance of nature ; adjusting aid arrangements for stockbreeding in mountain areas to the carrying capacity of the pastureland;*

   b. *designating areas where the building of roads, except access tracks to pastures and forests, and the construction of buildings and other structures are prohibited;*

c. including in land-use planning zones enjoying the highest level of protection the landscape features and habitats typical of mountain ecosystems, such as glaciers, névés, moraines, rock faces, scree, high-altitude lakes, torrents, peat bogs and dry grasslands;

d. regulating off-piste skiing, the spreading of artificial snow, the use of cross-country vehicles and any other activities liable to harm mountain ecosystems.

There are a few projects dedicated to nature protection in mountain areas. One of them aims to counter the effects of rainwater runoff in mountain areas by increasing retention and keeping streams and related infrastructure in good condition. The project is co-financed from EU funds and implemented in the 2007-2015 period in 55 Forest Districts in southern Poland. It includes the retention and renaturalisation of permanent watercourses and wetlands, limitation and control of surface runoff (surface retention) and the settlement and slowing of flood waters (flood retention).

Other project "Optimization of the use of the resources of the Natura 2000 network for sustainable development in the Carpathians" was conducted in the years 2007-2011, co-financed by the EEA Financial Mechanism. It resulted in preparation of management strategies for 23 Natura 2000 sites, active conservation and protection programmes (eg. prevention of damages in sheep herds caused by large carnivores), educational programmes, coherence analysis of the Natura 2000 network in the Carpathians and promotional activities.

3. Flood plains

a. maintaining and, where possible, restoring the natural cycle of flooding in flood plains;

b. designating flood-risk areas and subjecting them to special restrictions, particularly with regard to building;

c. protecting landscape features and habitats that are typical of flood plains, such as alluvial forests, water meadows, oxbow lakes and islands, by including them in land-use planning zones enjoying the highest level of protection;

d. encouraging the continuation of traditional agricultural and stock breeding methods by means of subsidies management agreements;

e. requiring prior authorisation for any drainage or conversion of wetlands in a flood plain;

f. creating river nature parks, in accordance with paragraph VII.3 below.

Traditional management in flood plains was encouraged by the Agro-Environmental Programme, where financial schemes were foreseen for extensive management in certain habitat types. Moreover, activities that can alter water or soil conditions (especially concerning water management, drainage, excavation of raw materials) undergo legal supervision of the regional director for environmental protection. This authority can object to the planned activities, for example if they may infringe provisions related to protected areas.

Except of the project that was already mentioned in point 2 (mountains), there is a second project on improvement of retention opportunities and prevention of floods and drought in forest ecosystems in lowland areas, carried out between 2007 and 2014 in almost 180 forest districts. It covers the renaturalisation of wetlands, restoration of irrigation systems, reconstruction of melioration systems, and construction and reconstruction of water retention facilities.

Another example of actions taken in order to restore the natural cycle of flooding in flood plains, is the project on the Odra river (Domaszków – Tarchalice). A new dam will be built in some distance from the river bank, so there will be enough space to restore natural flooding processes. The old dam, which was built very close to the river bank, will be opened. The project is carried out in cooperation with WWF Poland and co-financed by EU.

3. Forests

a. Maintaining at least 2 % of the surface area of publicly-owned indigenous and natural forests in its natural state by letting biological cycles, including the recycling of dead wood, occur freely;

b. setting up a system of management agreements with the owners of private forests to encourage the conservation of certain forest ecosystems or the continuation of certain forestry practices;

c. adopting regulations to ensure the protection of forest clearings and edges;

d. requiring that, after an environmental impact assessment has been carried out, any afforestation of semi-natural or natural non-wooded land and any conversion of natural forest into artificial forest be subject to the permission (or agreement) of the authority responsible for nature conservation and/or forest management.

In 2013, 1,4% of State Forests were strictly protected as nature reserves. In these areas biological cycles occur freely. Moreover according to the Principles of Silviculture of the State Forests, during total clearings in forests of short restoration cycle, patches of old tree stands should be left until their natural death. Their surface should not be smaller than 6a and not bigger than 5% of the forest clearing unit.

The private forests has to be managed on the basis of a simplified forest development plan, which takes into consideration environmental issues. The plan is prepared every 10 years.

The Principles of Silviculture set out also that open areas (meadows, bogs, etc.) should be maintained, because of their importance for biodiversity. Small ponds, rivers, bogs, heathlands, dunes, rocks, grasslands and other land which is not purposed for afforestation, should be maintained or restored. The forest edge should be shaped during cuttings or afforestation and adjusted to the function of the forest edge and the forest size. The species composition of forest edges should consist of native species which are suitable for the habitat conditions.

According to the Polish law, projects likely to potentially have significant effects on the environment include afforestation of:

a) pastures or meadows on areas with immediate or potential risk of flood,

b) wasteland on marsh soils,

c) wastelands or other than arable agricultural lands, located in nature protected areas or in their buffer zones,

d) areas above 20 ha.

It means that projects of afforestation of these habitats have to undergo the procedure of environmental impact assessment.

It should be also noted that in the State Forests afforestation is not carried out on wetlands, meadows and areas covered already by shrubs and trees.

Furthermore, the subsidies for afforestation are not granted for land situated in Natura 2000 sites, unless it is compliant with the provisions of the protection plan or plan of protection tasks of the site. The subsidies cannot be applied also for other protected areas, unless the afforestation is in accordance with the aims of the protected area. This condition is analysed by the regional director for environmental protection.

VII. Protected landscapes

1. Set up a network of nature parks of the C and D categories defined in Resolution (73) 30 of the Committee of Ministers with a view to conserving European landscapes by managing all their component elements in an integrated way.

2. Provide each nature park thus defined with the following means of action:

a. a specific land-use planning instrument with which the land-use plans of municipalities situated in the park must comply, and which includes the zoning and regulation of human activities according to the conservation needs of each zone;

b. incentives to encourage the maintenance of traditional activities compatible with the conservation needs of each zone, or necessary to achieve them;

c. an administration specific to each park and empowered to grant the permits required to carry out those activities which are regulated in each zone;

d. adequate funds and staff for providing information, encouragement and financial or technical assistance to all public bodies and private individuals that own land or carry out activities in the park.

3. Pay particular attention to establishing river nature parks covering the whole width of the flood plain, on either side of certain watercourses or parts thereof, where hydraulic schemes, drainage and any activities liable to harm river and alluvial ecosystems are regulated.

In Poland 122 landscape parks (8.3% of the country's area) and 385 protected landscape areas (22.6% of the country's area) were established. Landscape parks are sites of natural, historical and cultural values as well as landscape qualities, in conditions of sustainable development. Protected landscape areas are sites of outstanding landscape quality, with diverse ecosystems or tourist and recreational values or those which perform the function of ecological corridors. The law foresees, that a protection plan shall be drawn up for a landscape park and approved by a regional government. The protection plan includes rules that should be implemented in spatial plans. Moreover, drafts of local and regional spatial planning documents, that concern these protected areas, should be approved by a regional director for environmental protection. These two protected area types are managed by a regional government that provides staff for administrative, educational and protective tasks.

SERBIA / SERBIE

Report on Implementation of the Recommendation n° 25 (1991) on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper

(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 6 December 1991)

Emerald Network in the Republic of Serbia

The CARDs Project EEA/CoE :Development of the Emerald Network in the South-Eastern Europe (Albania,Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia and Serbia) have been realized in period 2005-2008.

According to the Administrative Arrangement between the Council of Europe and the Republic of Serbia, the Administrative Arrangement N° 06/08 is signed between the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia.

Ministry responsible for Environmental Protection in the Republic of Serbia has entrusted the considered affairs to the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia.

Phases of the project realisation

- Pilot project – "Establishment of the Emerald Network in Serbia and Montenegro" - January 2006
- Phase II, Part 1 – "Establishment of the Emerald Network in the Republic of Serbia" - (August 2006)
- Phase II, Part 2 – "Establishment of the Emerald Network in the Republic of Serbia' - December 2006
- Phase III – "Development of the Emerald Network in the Republic of Serbia" - December 2008

Serbia selecting Areas of Special Conservation Interest-ASCI) as following:

- 61 sites (11,48 % of Serba)/ using Natura 2000 software for date base
- Two Bio-geographical seminars held in Paris and Bar (Montenegro)
- The List of Candidate 61 Emerald sites in Serbia (Proposed ASCIs) established by the Standing Committee of Bern Convention in 2011.

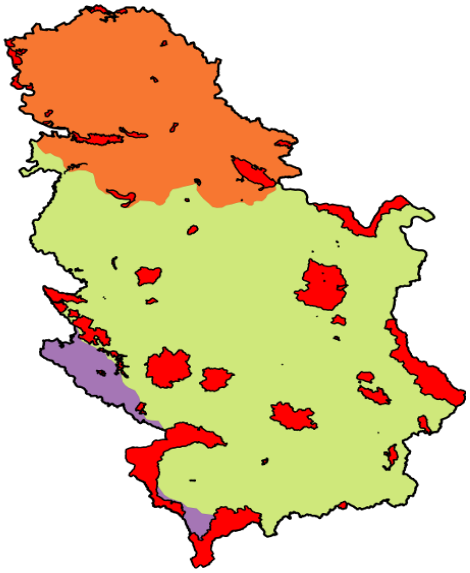

Figure1: 61 EMERALD SITES IN SERBIA PER BIOGEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS (11,48 % of Serbia) (Pannonian , Continental and Alpine)

Ecological Network in the Republic of Serbia

In accordance with the Law on Nature Protection and the Decree on Ecological Network the system of the nature protection as a mechanism for protection of the Ecological Network is established including Natura 2000 and Emerald Network.

According to the Decree on Ecological Network ("Official Gazette of RS", No 102/2010) and the Ruelbook on proclamation and protection strictly protected and protected wild species of plants, animals and fungi ("Official Gazette of RS", No 5/2010) were established an ecological important sites including national and international importnat sites (101 sites, more then 20% of Teritorry on the scientific base of several projects as following

Ecologically important areas referred to in Article 2 of this Regulation shall include spatial wholes on which the following areas and facilities are located:

1) certain protected areas proclaimed pursuant to law governing the protection of nature with the priority objective to conserve biodiversity including the areas under the proclamation of protection and the areas planned to be protected based on the respective strategy documents planned for protection;
2) important conversation areas, i.e. Emerlad network, identified on the basis of the Convention on the conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)
3) certain areas specified pursuant to the international programmes for the identification of Important Bird Area (IBA), Important Plant Area (IPA) and Prime Butterfly Area (PBA);
4) the areas on the list of the Convention on internationally important wetland habitats (Ramsar areas) or are planned for entering the list;
5) certain speleological facilities;
6) cross-border ecologically important areas that enable the connection with the ecological networks of neighbouring countries in comformity with the international regulations;
7) certain areas of habitat types of special conservation interest identified in comformity with the Rulebook on the criteria for the definition of habitat types, habitat types, sensitive, endangered, rare and priority habitat types for protection as well as of protection measures for their conservation ("Official Gazette of RS", No 35/10);
8) certain wild species habitats set forth in conformity with the Rulebook on proclamation and protection of strictly protected and protected species of wild flora, fauna and fungi ("Official Gazette of RS", No 5/10);
9) other ecologically important areas not embraced in those areas specified as important in accordance with spatial plans.

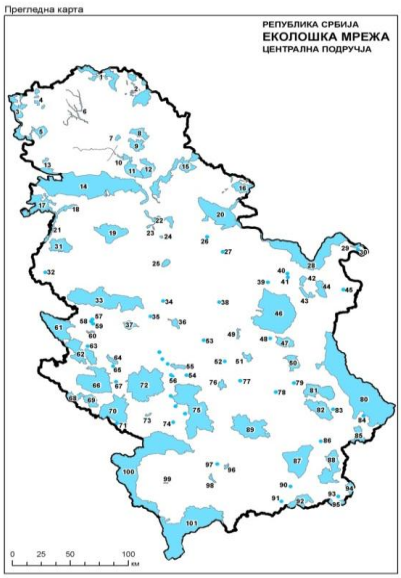

Figure 2. The Ecological Network of the Republic of Serbia including National and International Ecological Important Areas (more then 20% of Serbia)

In accordance with Law on Nature Protection, Atricle 8 and 9. planning, regulation and use of space, natural resources, protected areas and ecological network implement in compliance with measures and conditions of nature protection provided by the Institues forf Nature conservation.

For plans, programmes and projects for which, compliant with SEA and EIA have been performed, the Appropriate Assessment carried out within those procedures in compliance with measures and conditions of nature protection provided by the Institutes of Nature conservation

According to the Decree on Ecological network:

The protection of the ecological network provides by the implementation of measures prescribed with a view to conserving biological and landscape diversity, sustainable use and renewal of natural resources and improvement of protected areas, habitat types and wild species habitats in compliance with law governing nature protection and other regulations, as well as in compliance with acts concerning the proclamation of protected areas and with international contracts.

Protection measures for the ecological network refer to legal entities and natural persons that use natural resources and perform the activities and operations in compliance with law governing nature protection.

Measures, methods and technical-technological solutions shall be implemented in the area of the ecological network with a view to conserving the favourable status of ecologically important areas and improving damaged status of the ecological network parts.

Natura 2000 in the Republic of Serbia

Ecologically important areas of EU NATURA 2000 shall be identified and shall become the part of European the ecological network NATURA 2000 on the day of the Republic of Serbia accession to the European Union.

Project "IPA 2007": Strengthening Administrative Capacities for Protected Areas in Serbia (NATURA 2000(has been realized in 2010-2012.

Results of this Project:

43 sites of the SPA's have been identified according to the criteria of Bird Life International on the base of the IBA Project -Important Bird Area in Serbia.

Pilot Management plans were prepared according to the Natura 2000 criteria for National Park Tara as pSCI covering mountain forestry zone and for Special Nature Reserve Obedska Bara as potential SPA covering the lowland wetland zone.

Project IPA 2012 – Capacity Building to Implement 'Acquis' Standards in Nature Protection - Establishment of NATURA 2000 and the related Supply Tender for IT equipment and software for Serbian NATURA 2000 Database (2015-2016)

The overall objective:

Strengthening the Capacity building for the implementation of the provisions of the Habitats and Birds Directives and the establishment of the NATURA 2000 network.

Results to be achieved by the Contractor- ovo je potrebno da se prebaci u planirane aktivnosti, u smislu koraka.

Result 1:Preliminary list of potential NATURA 2000 sites compliant with the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives prepared;

Result 2:Selected habitat types mapped and field inventories of selected species carried out;

Result 3: Basis for the management of potential NATURA 2000 sites established;

Result 4: Improved communication and public awareness on NATURA 2000.

Planned projects:

- Establishing the ecological network of the Republic of Serbia and identification and mapping of habit types in Serbia – gathering and evaluation of existing data on habit types, field work and filling the database, establishing the system of GIS for habit types – complementary activities to the IPA 2012 project financed by the state budget (2015-2018)
- **The EMERALD Network in the Republic of Serbia** – The project should continue, and gives bases for the data management and general approach for designing the NATURA 2000 network.

New proposed project

- Proposal of the IPA 2015 (Draft SPD 2015-2017) has been developed including support to further preparation management plans for Natura 2000 sites and support further identification of Natura 2000 sites and development management plans. If it is going to be approved, the project will be implemented in period 2017-2018.

Prepared by Snezana Prokic,
Focal point for Bern Convention

SLOVAK REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
NÁM. Ľ.ŠTÚRA 1, 812 35 BRATISLAVA 1, SLOVAKIA
Directorate of Nature Protection and Landscape Development

Bern Convention - national report on implementation of the Recommendation No 25/1991 of the Council of Ministers on the conservation of natural areas outside protected areas proper

General information with respect to the Recommendation No 25/1991[3] :

Our report provides the general overview on implementation of the Recommendation No 25/1991 at the national level (not the precise replies to each of VII parts of the Appendix of this Recommendation).

It is also necessary to clarify that classification A, B, C and D according to the Resolution 73/30 only partially corresponds with the classification of protected areas under the national legislation in Slovakia.

According to the Act on Nature and Landscape Protection[4]:

- *there are following categories of protected areas in Slovakia:*
  1. *Protected landscape area*
  2. *National park*
  3. *Protected site*
  4. *Nature reserve, national nature reserve*
  5. *Nature monument, national nature monument*
  6. *Protected landscape element*
  7. *Protected bird area (=special protection areas under the EU Bird Directive)*
  8. *Municipal protected area.*
- *all country is "divided" to 5 levels of protection (2^{nd}-5^{th} level apply to protected areas while the 1^{st} level applies outside of protected areas and to protected bird areas (for them "prohibited activities" are specified in the designation legal acts); there are lists of activities which are subject to special permit and/or which are prohibited in levels of protection;*
- *sites protected under various international conventions - classified as "areas of international importance" include Ramsar sites, biosphere reserves and other sites in lists of international conventions or international institutions;*

Since 2013 the process of categorization of protected areas under the IUCN classification has been implemented in Slovakia. Up to date, the draft detail "national" methodology was prepared and tested to all the national parks and protected landscape areas. Results of testing of each site were

[3] Examine the possibility, for the purpose of the convention, of taking conservation measures such as those mentioned as examples in the appendix to this recommendation to improve conservation outside the protected areas of categories A and B of the above-mentioned Resolution (73) 30 of the Committee of Ministers;
[4] No 543/2002 Coll. as amended

presented and discussed during workshop in November 2014, during 2015 testing will be done also for selected protected sites categories. Results will be used for instance in long term revision process of national network of protected sites, setting conservation objectives of protected sites and in reporting to various global/European institution in charge of protected areas data bases.

Protected areas (both national network and Natura 2000 composed of special bird areas and sites of Community importance) in Slovakia cover over 37 % of the country.

Information to item 1 of the Recommendation No 25/1991:

I. ***General measures for promoting ecological management of the environment as a whole***

Projects, plans and programmes are subject of EIA/SEA procedure[5] *and there is a regime of the appropriate assessment applied for (proposed) Natura 2000 sites (protected bird areas and sites of Community importance). Principles of both, mitigation and compensatory measures are applied, too.*

II. ***Areas of special conservation interest***

As already mentioned, classification of A, B, C and D does not fully comply with the national system of protected areas. Conservation measures (with respect to land-use planning, EIA/SEA, granting exceptions etc.) are regulated by relevant national legislation.

System of acquisition of protected areas has been provided by Act No 543/2002 Coll., in practice this institute is not applied in larger scale (only within LIFE projects). Since 2014 the system of financial compensation of land owners/users has been enlarged (exchange of land, contractual measures were added), its application is under preparation. Private protected areas are legally possible and since 2014 also municipal protected sites.

Management of protected areas is differentiated: within the 5th level of protection interventions are possible only exceptionally (within granted derogation under very specific conditions), within 2nd-4th levels activities such as forestry, agriculture, tourism, research, hunting, fishing etc. are restricted according to the respective level of protection and of course according to occurrence of protected species. Nature protection bodies (at national, regional, district scales) are involved in decision making process for territorial planning, forestry, etc.

III. ***Ecological corridors***

So called territorial system of ecological stability has been introduced in 1990-ties defining 3 scales (national, regional and local) of biocentres, biocorridors and interactive elements. Project at national and regional scales have been elaborated (regional ones are currently subject to revision).

Green infrastructure (including ecoducts to eliminate impact of transport infrastructure, water courses etc.) is one of top biodiversity priorities for the actual period 2014-2020.

IV. ***Habitat types***

In 2002 habitats of Community interest and of national interest have been defined/listed in the national legislation. Status of 67 habitats of Community interest is subject to 6 year period reporting to the European Commission. In 2013 priority action framework was adopted that also lists habitas with unfavourable conservation status that are to be tackled by 2020 (with the aim to improve their status), along with list of habitats with favourable conservation status that should be maintained by 2020.

V. ***Landscape features***

Protected landscape element (as specific category of protected sites) has been so far designated so far only marginally opposite to protected trees (soliters, lines, groups). Green infrastructure should be preserved/improved mainly in coming period to meet both biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation objectives.

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[5] Act No 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on change of some acts

With respect to agriculture and forestry, measures are subject to rural development program and other regulations given by specific legal norms.

VI. ***Ecologically sensitive areas***

Mountains, floodplains and forests (specified in the Appendix of the Resolution) are largely „covered" within the network of protected areas in Sloviaka. With respect to mountains main issues are decline of extensive agriculture leading to decline of grasslands, forestry, „demographic changes" of population as well as (in some parts) intensive infrastructure for winter sports.

VII. ***Protected landscapes***

A specific land-use planning instrument (suggested in the Appendix of the Resolution for categories A and D) does not exists because land use planning is specified for all the country with restrictions within protected areas. Land use planning also takes into consideration nature/landscape protection documentation.

Information to item 2 of the Recommendation No 25/1991[6] :

Action to maintain/improve protected areas and "free landscape" require legal and institutional framework, finances and cooperation and coordination as well as setting the concrete objectives and responsibilities.

In 2014 Government of the Slovak Republic approved several crucial documents that created the bases for the coordinated action and for the financing of needed activities. They are namely:

1. *Updated national strategy on biodiversity protection by 2020 (decision of the government No 12/2014);*
2. *Action plan to implement the Updated national strategy on biodiversity protection by 2020 (decision of the government No 442/2014);*
3. *Operational program "Quality of the Environment" of the Slovak Republic 2014-2020 (decision of the government No 175/2014) and other programs to use the EU funds.*

Both, updated biodiversity strategy/its action plan and the Operational program "Quality of the Environment" of the Slovak Republic 2014-2020 are aimed to support biodiversity inside/outside protected areas along with allocation of specific resources and responsible bodies.

In 2014 Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic started coordination of working group on mapping ecosystem and evaluation of ecosystem services and the pilot project (primary map of ecosystems in Slovakia and evaluation of selected ecosystem services). This initiative should lead among others to the better consideration of "nature and landscape" in planning and implementing of strategies and decision making process.

Bratislava, 11th November 2014
Prepared by Jana Durkošová (Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic)

[6] Communicate to the Secretariat, for the information of the other Contracting Parties, any other relevant measures they have already taken or intend to take as well as any available information on the effects of measures they have taken.;

SWEDEN/ SUÈDE

SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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2014-06-18 Case number:
NV-04523-14

Follow-up of Bern Recommendation 25 on the conservation of natural areas outside of protected areas proper

We recognize the importance of this Recommendation, and agree that if implemented, the suggested measures will contribute greatly to the overall conservation of natural areas. However, a report that would cover a thorough scrutiny of the measures mentioned in the Recommendation would require considerable resources of each respondent, and the answers would risk being hard to compare, since it is not clear how descriptions or answers should be formulated. It is also clear that many of the aspects in the appendix are covered by the implementation of the EU nature legislation.

In the light of this, our response is of a more general kind. We focus on giving a short description of some conservation measures that are specific for Sweden. In addition to them, we of course also work with traditional conservation like nature reserves etc, but since such measures are applied in most counties, we don't give a specific description of them, but in this brochure you can read more http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Documents/publikationer/978-91-620-8386-1.pdf?pid=4069 .

We hope that this will help you, but are of course ready to respond in more detail to specific questions, preferably when it is clear how the reports will be compiled, and when appended suggestions overlapping with the EU nature legislation have been formulated by the European Commission.

The Swedish Environmental Quality Objectives

Since 1998, Sweden's work with environment and nature conservation has been directed by 15 (now 16) Environmental Quality Objectives, that provide a framework for all actions considered necessary for handing on a good environment to the next generation. In 2010, the Swedish Parliament approved the Government Bill 2009/10:155 *Sweden's Environmental Quality Objectives - For More Effective Environmental Action*, which outlined several changes to the environmental objectives system, including a new target structure for environmental efforts. The structure around which environmental action is formed includes:

a generational goal that sets the direction for the changes in society that must be made within a generation in order to achieve the environmental quality objectives,

environmental quality objectives that indicate the state of the Swedish environment to which environmental action is intended to lead, and

milestone targets that indicate steps along the way to the environmental quality objectives and the generational goal.

Green infrastructure
The Swedish Government highlighted in a bill on nature protection (2008/09:214) the need to analyze measures needed for building a green infrastructure to ensure the long-term survival of species and the delivery of important ecosystem services, in the light of possible future climate changes. The EPA, together with a range of relevant government agencies, concluded that the necessary methods and data are now available to perform a basic landscape analysis of core areas of importance for biodiversity and their distribution and connectivity in the landscape. During the spring 2014, the government has launched the bill 'A Swedish strategy for biodiversity and ecosystem services' which also includes actions concerning green infrastructure, e g that the Swedish County Administrative Boards (regional authorities) are to produce regional green infrastructure plans before 2017.

Forestry
voluntary set-aside areas are established when landowners remove areas from forestry production to establish conservation sites without economical compensation from the public. The concept of voluntary set-asides has been developed during the last decades in co-operation between the certification systems, governmental agencies and international NGOs. There are similarities and dissimilarities between the certification standards and the environmental objectives. The voluntary set-asides are mostly a result of certification standards. One example of a co-operative mechanism is the Komet Program, which has been designed for testing new ways of protection of biologically valuable forests. This voluntary scheme, initiated by the Swedish Government and introduced in spring 2010, is a partnership between three government bodies. The Komet Program aims to take care of and promote the landowners interest and conditions to nature conservation and also to raise the awareness of the conservation value of their land. It has a "bottom-up" approach, where the initiative for nature conservation comes from the landowner. They can then agree with an authority about the most suitable protection level, and the landowner is economically compensated in relation to how strict the protection is.Temporary conservation agreements (max 50 years duration) are one of the potential protection forms.

Agriculture
A prescription from the Swedish Board of Agriculture specifies that it is not allowed to change semi-natural grassland inte other land-use forms without a specific permit from the County Administrative Boards. This means that they are protected from changes like forest plantation, ploughing or other exploitation, and the prescription also specifies that if they have a high degreee of naturalness, they shold not be fertilised or harmed by other practices that can damage their biodiversity.
Important small biotopes like single trees, small ponds, stonewalls and tree avenues are covered by a strict general protection regime, which means that thay can not be removed or their biodiversity values harmed without a special permit that can only be granted under specific circumstances.
The greatest current threat against grassland biodiversity is however abandonment. The Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 is the main instrument today for maintaining management-dependent biodiversity in the agricultural landscape. A significant part of farmland biodiversity is linked to unfertilised meadows and semi-natural pastures. Continuous management is necessary to preserve the biological values that exist here and payments within the Rural Development Programme have in fact contributed to the conservation and

management of many pastures and meadows. Without compensation, these lands, which are mostly irrelevant to the production, would have disappeared.

Shoreline protection
In Sweden, there is a general prohibition against building closer than 100 m from natural water bodies. In some cases, the regional authorities can extend this exploitation prohibition to 300 m.

Mountains
Parts of the Swedish mountain areas are designated as areas on national interest due to their untouched character. Within these areas, new buidings or developments are only allowed if it is necessary for reindeer holders, people permanently living in the area, scientific research or for outdoor recreation purposes. Other activities are permitted only if the can be carried out without changing the character of the site.