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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

34th meeting
Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2014

**MANDATE OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Annex I to Recommendation No. 122 (2006)
On the conservation of biological diversity in the context of
Climate Change**

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

Annex I to Recommendation No. 122 (2006) of the Standing Committee on the conservation of biological diversity in the context of climate change, adopted by the Standing Committee on 30 November 2006

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A GROUP OF EXPERTS ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Scope

- 1.1 to exchange information and review the effects of climate change on the biological diversity covered by the Bern Convention, including species and habitats, protected areas, and ecological networks;
- 1.2 to propose advice and guidance for use in developing appropriate adaptation and management policies and actions for the conservation of the biological diversity mentioned above, including key policies that impact on ecosystem goods and services;
- 1.3 to present to the Standing Committee specific proposals, guidance and/or recommendations covering 1.1 and 1.2 above, to help Parties address the challenges of climate change in the implementation of the Convention and its objectives.

2. Composition

- 2.1 Engage the expertise of Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention, including members of other Groups of Experts established under the Bern Convention and under other Conventions, as appropriate, as well as relevant observers.
- 2.2 The Group of Experts may call on additional expertise on an *ad hoc* basis.

3. Methodology and timeframe

- 3.1 The work of the Group of Experts will take account of the report “Conserving European Biodiversity in the Context of Climate Change” by Michael B. Usher [CO-DBP (2005) 3 revised], as well as of existing relevant instruments and initiatives at the national, European and international level, including the following:

3.1.1 at the international level

- the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;
- the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species and its related agreements, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;
- the Global Taxonomy Initiative;
- the IPCC report “Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability”;
- the five-year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, adopted under the UNFCCC;
- the Regional Seas Conventions.

3.1.2 at the European level

- the 2003 Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity;
- the 2004 Strasbourg Declaration on the role of the Bern Convention in the preservation of biological diversity;
- relevant Council of Europe's legal and policy frameworks such as the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, the European Landscape Convention, the European Conference of Ministers responsible for regional planning, and EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement;
- the EU Climate Change Programme and its Working Group on Impacts and Adaptation;
- the EC Communication on "Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and beyond: Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being";
- the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS).

3.1.3 at the national level

- protected area management and policy;
- species conservation policy;
- national policies on agriculture and forestry, including production of renewable energy from biomass; freshwater resources; coastal systems and marine areas; as well as land-use planning.

3.2 The Group of Experts will endeavour to submit a set of finalised guidance/recommendations to the Standing Committee for decision by 2008 – with a progress report on its work by 2007.