



Strasbourg, 3 October 2025

T-PVS/Agenda(2025)20

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

15th meeting

7 – 8 October 2025
Venue: Bar, Montenegro
Hotel Princess

DRAFT AGENDA

*Document prepared by the Secretariat
of the Bern Convention*

		Documents	Expected results
<i>Tuesday 7 October</i>			
9.00 am	1. Opening of the meeting	Opening address by the Secretariat of the Bern Convention	
9.10 am	2. Adoption of the agenda	Meeting agenda T-PVS/Agenda(2025)20 For adoption	Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed of the aims of the meeting and adopt the agenda.
9.15 am	3. Secretariat to present the conclusions from the previous GoEPAEN and mandate of the Group and decisions of the 44th meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention <i>Presentation by the Secretariat</i>	Report of the 14 th meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks T-PVS/PA(2024)09 Extract from the list of decisions and adopted texts on the protection of habitats of the 44 th meeting of the Standing Committee T-PVS/PA(2025)05 For information	The conclusions of the previous GoEPAEN meeting and the salient points of the 44 th meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention are recalled.
9.30 am	4. Updated information on monitoring the implementation of the Vision and Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 <i>Presentation by Dave Pritchard, independent expert</i> <i>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed of the updated information on monitoring the</i>	Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 T-PVS(2023)18 Vision for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 T-PVS(2021)14	Members of and observers to the Group of Experts take note of updated information on monitoring the implementation of the Vision and Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention for the period to 2030.

	<i>implementation of the Vision and Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 and invited to reflect on the contribution of the work of the Group of Experts to the achievement of the Strategic Plan.</i>	For information	
9.45 am	<p>5. Discussion on the new fields of the draft proposal of the Emerald Network Standard Data Form based on the discussion paper on implications</p> <p><i>Presentation by Ms Laura Gavilán, independent expert</i></p> <p><i>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed of the proposed new fields of the Emerald Network Standard Data Form (SDF) and are invited to exchange views on the compulsory/optional nature of these new fields</i></p>	<p>For discussion and decision</p> <p>T-PVS/Inf(2025)38e</p>	Members of and observers to the Group of Experts discuss and decide on the optional/compulsory nature of the new fields of the Emerald Network SDF to be aligned with the Natura 2000 SDF. They are expected to discuss and decide whether to submit the document for adoption to the Standing Committee.
10.30 am	<p>6. Reportnet 3 delivery platform: state of play</p> <p><i>Information point by Laura Gavilán</i></p>	For information	Members of and observers to the Group of Experts take note of the delivery process to Reportnet 3 and provide the Secretariat with guidance on follow-up work.
10.45 am	Coffee break		
11.15 am	<p>7. Criteria for assessing (negative) changes on the Emerald Network dataflow</p> <p><i>Presentation by Otars Opermanis, independent expert</i></p>	<p>For information and discussion</p> <p>T-PVS/PA(2025)01</p>	Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed about and discuss the relevance of reporting negative changes for the correct evaluation of the conservation status of habitats and species.
11.45 am	<p>8. Emerald Network: screening, prior assessment and authorisation of potentially harmful projects. A digest of relevant international legal instruments, recommendations and guidelines</p> <p><i>Presentation by Dave Pritchard</i></p>	<p>For information</p> <p>T-PVS/PA(2025)02</p>	Members of and observers to the Group of Experts take note of the relevant international legal instruments, recommendations and guidelines for the screening, prior assessment and authorisation of potentially harmful projects.

12.15 am	9. State of play of the Emerald Network <i>Presentation by Marc Roekaerts, independent expert</i>	For information	Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed of the current situation of the Emerald Network.
12.30 am	10. Overview of errors in the Emerald Network dataflow; emphasising the need to update country databases <i>Presentation by Marc Roekaerts</i>	For information	Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed of frequent errors during the reporting procedure and the need to keep national databases updated.
1.00 pm	Lunch break		
2.15 pm	11. Summary of countries factsheets aimed to assist on the development of the Emerald Network <i>Presentation by Marc Roekaerts</i>	For information	Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed of the work carried out by the expert in regard to the summary of countries factsheets.
2.30 pm	12. Development of the Emerald Network in Contracting Parties: national state of play <i>Tour de table</i> <i>Reminder by the Secretariat</i> <i>Representatives of the Contracting Parties are invited to update the Group of Experts of the latest developments regarding the Emerald Network in their countries.</i>	For discussion	Members of and observers to the Group of Experts take note of the recent developments of the Emerald Network in Contracting Parties. Members of and observers discuss possible ways to boost the selection, proposal and declaration of new Emerald sites at a national level, to fulfil the targets for the Strategy and Vision of the Bern Convention to 2030, and to comply with the international commitments adopted by the countries.
3.30 pm	13. Emerald Network in Montenegro <i>Presentation by Dragan Roganovic, advisor at the Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro</i> <i>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed of the highlights of the Emerald Network in Montenegro</i>	For information	Members of and observers to the Group of Experts take note of the highlights of the Emerald Network in Montenegro.

<p>4.00 pm</p>	<p>14. State of play of the Emerald component of EU4ENVIRONMENT programme</p> <p><i>Presentation by Otars Opermanis</i></p>	<p>For information</p>	<p>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are provided an update on the progress in Emerald component of EU4ENVIRONMENT programme.</p>
<p>4.15 pm</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>		
<p>4.30 pm</p>	<p>15. Programme of activities 2025 – 2026: future work of the Group of Experts</p> <p><i>Presentation by the Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are invited to propose and discuss priority activities for 2025 and 2026.</i></p>	<p>For discussion</p>	<p>Priority activities are identified and will feed into the 2025 programme of work and/or be included in the 2026 draft Programme of Activities and Budget of the Bern Convention (subject to the availability of financial and human resources).</p>
<p>5.00 pm</p>	<p>16. Date and place of the next meeting of the Group of Experts</p> <p><i>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts wishing to host the next meeting of the Group of Experts are invited to inform the participants.</i></p>	<p>For decision</p>	<p>The provisional venue and dates of the next meeting are agreed on.</p>
<p>5.15 pm</p>	<p>17. Any other business</p>		
<p>5.30 pm</p>	<p>18. Conclusions of the meeting</p> <p><i>Presentation by Danielle Hofmann, Chair of the Group of Experts</i></p>	<p>For discussion and adoption</p>	<p>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are invited to work together to draw the conclusions of the meeting.</p>
<p>5.45 pm</p>	<p>19. Briefing on the excursion to Lake Skadar: timing, targets and logistic details</p> <p><i>Presentation by the Anela Sijarić, Head of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, Ministry of Tourism,</i></p>	<p>For information</p>	<p>Members of and observers to the Group of Experts are informed of the excursion to Lake Skadar that will take place on 8 October.</p>

	<i>Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development, Montenegro</i>		
6.00 pm	End of the meeting		
7.30 pm	Reception offered by the Montenegrin Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development		
<i>Wednesday 8 October</i>			
8.30	<i>Departure from the Hotel Princess by bus</i>		
9.00 – 12.30	<i>Excursion to Lake Skadar led by Montenegrin delegation</i> <i>Opening remarks by Anela Sijarić & Danielle Hofmann</i>		