

**Climate Change and protected  
areas:  
results of the questionnaire**

**Otars Opermanis, Strasbourg, 27.11.2018.**

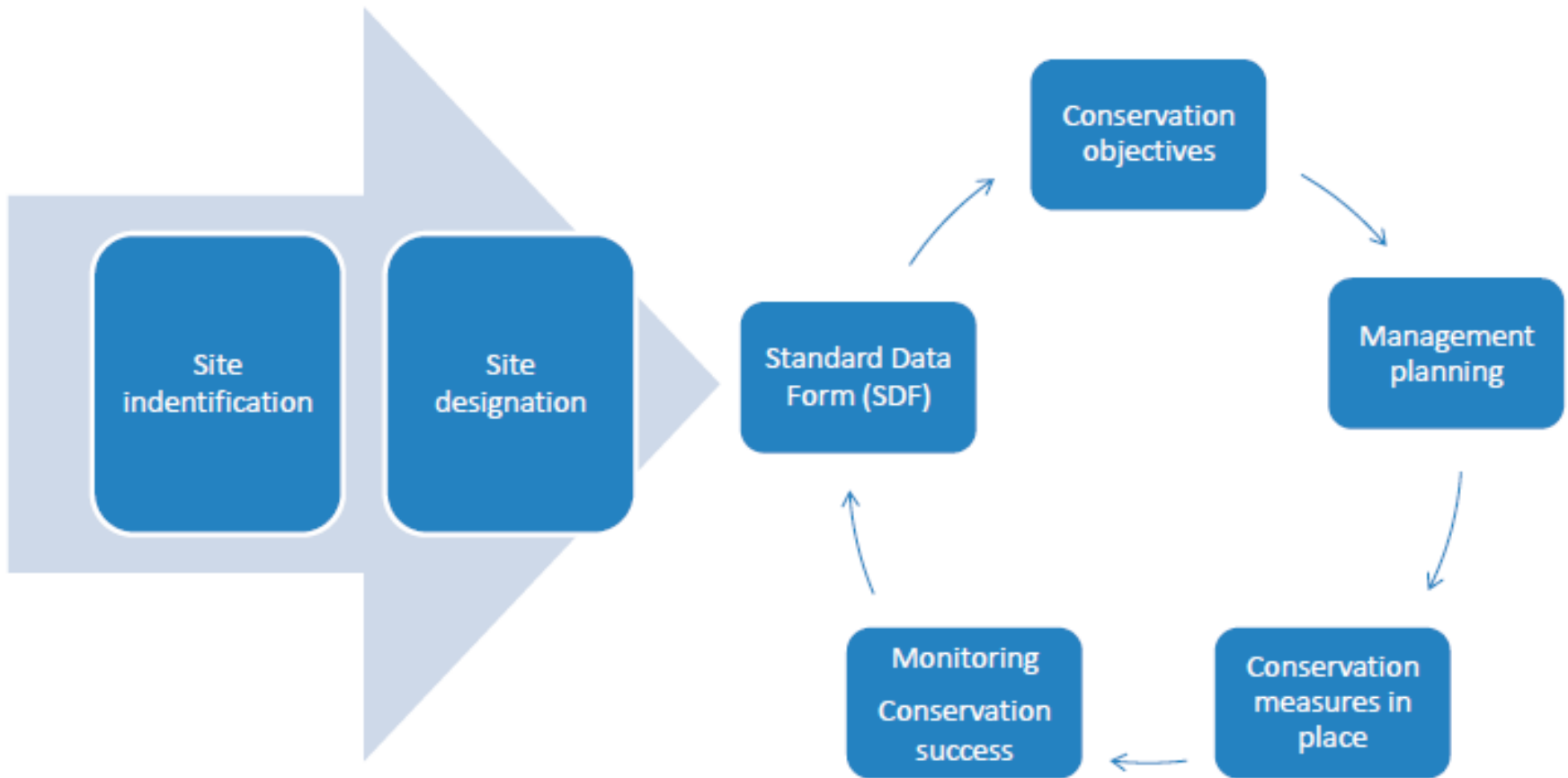
# Context

- Climate Change **is happening** and it may cause displacements in species distribution or even extinction
- Protected areas and their networks are the arena where it is most easy to implement various **measures** to help species to adapt to various Climate Change effects
- Such measures should be targeted **to remove or minimise existing pressures** on species and habitats which are most at risk as a result of Climate Change
- This will help to **increase their adaptive capacity** to changes and raise their chances of survival

# Aims of the survey

- **Site designation** for Natura 2000 network coming to the end and progressing for Emerald
- **Need for appropriate management** of protected areas taking into account Climate Change effects
- Bern Convention Secretariat needs to identify **needs of countries** to ensure site management
- ... and consider appropriate responses

# Adaptive management



Phase I and II of the Emerald Network process

Phase III of the Emerald Network process

# Questionnaire

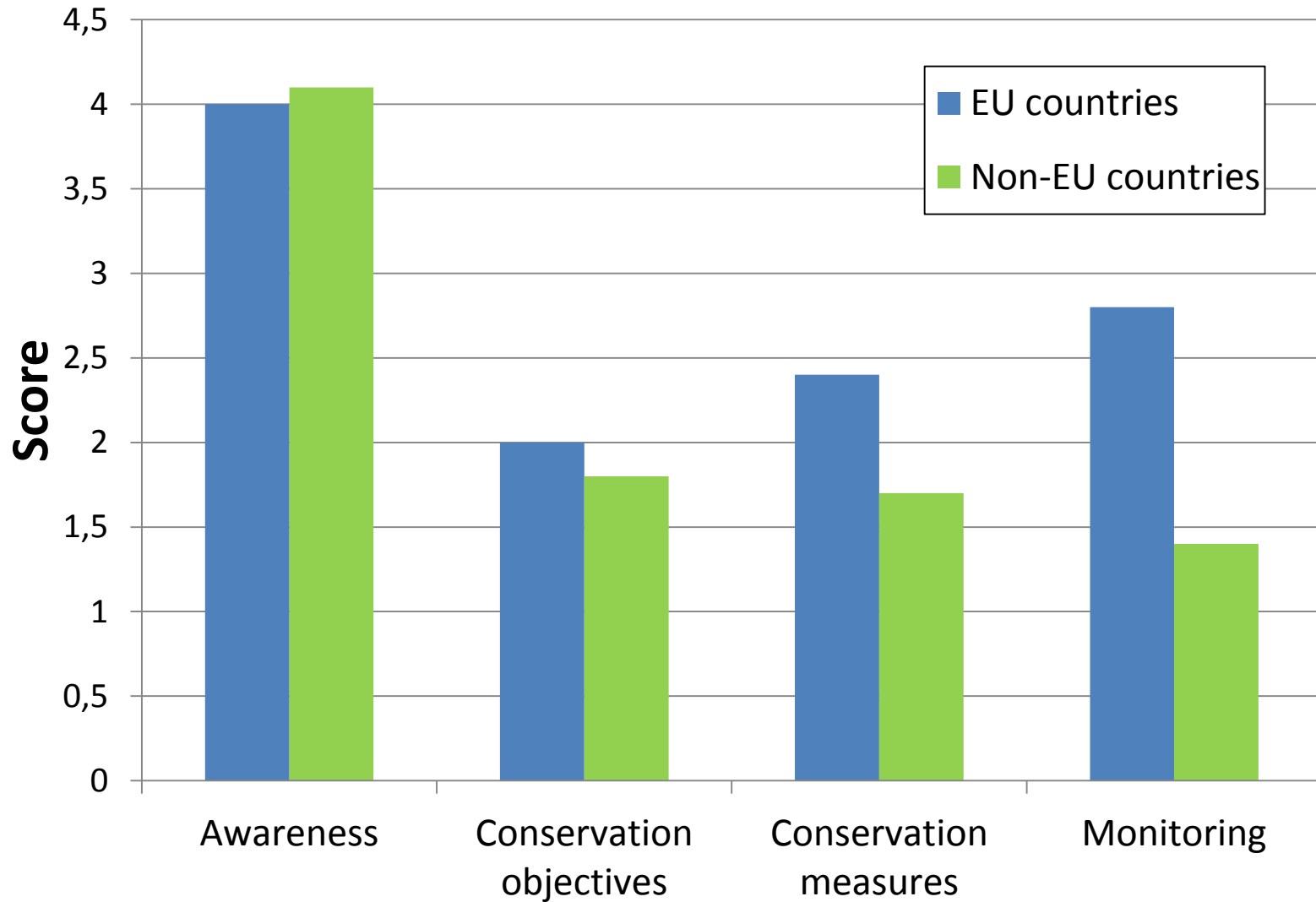
- Fourteen questions in three parts:
  - Self assessment of existing implementation of Climate Change adaptation measures
  - Problems and obstacles
  - Possible actions

# Questionnaire

- Key points/elements of management :
  - Awareness about Climate Change
  - Conservation objectives for protected areas
  - Conservation measures
  - Monitoring

14 responses received (of 51 countries)

# Self assessment



# Main problems

- **Information** issues
- Lack of analytical **skills**/qualified **staff** for setting conservation objectives, monitoring, choice of appropriate conservation measures
- Lack of established **process** of site adaptive management (including all elements)
- Lack of **funding**
- Climate Change is **not a key problem**



# Important topics

- Successful **examples** of Climate Change adaptation
- Setting of **conservation objectives** at the site level.
- **Exchange of international knowledge and experience** on site management
- Skills how to find, use and interpret **data** on vulnerability of species and habitats to Climate Change and how they relate to site- and country-specific contexts?
- Adaptive management planning **process**, particularly the use of monitoring results to review conservation objectives.
- Availability of **published materials** on adequate conservation measures for different species and habitats?

# Possible methods of work

- Guidance where to find **already existing information**: guidelines, scientific evidence etc.
- Development of **new additional guidance** documents.
- Web-based **communication platform** for information accumulation and experience exchange.
- In-door **seminars** organised (either country-specific, regional or international).
- **Study tours**, i.e. visits to specific sites to demonstrate some valuable experience.

# Closing remarks

- Climate Change is challenging and complex
- Uncertainties exist in predicting future climate
- Addressing Climate Change is a learning process
- Thus management must be adaptive based on system monitoring
- Non-EU countries need particular assistance