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T-PVS/Files(2020)4

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

40<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2020

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**Complaints on stand-by**

**Possible threat to Svaneti 1 Candidate Emerald  
site from Nenskra HPP (Georgia)**

**- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -**

*Document prepared by  
the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia*



გარემოს დაცვისა და  
სოფლის მეურნეობის  
საინჟინრო

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE  
OF GEORGIA

საქართველო  
GEORGIA

1734-01-2-202002131709



N 1734/01  
13/02/2020

To: The Secretary of the Bern Convention

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia would like to present its compliments and expresses the deepest consideration to the Secretariat of Bern Convention. Once again we would like to confirm the great effort of the Government of Georgia in terms of active engagement into the Emerald Network development process.

In response to the decision of the Bureau of the Bern Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (T-PVS(2019)4), we would like to give the update on the freshwater habitats.

As the EUNIS classification of Habitats was the new subject for our country, freshwater habitats were understood by our experts not clearly enough, so they were mapped only in the black sea region. This is the reason why there are no freshwater habitats in most of the Standard Data Forms of Emerald Sites.

Due to the lack of finances and availability of experts, the process of mapping of freshwater habitats will start this year with financial support of GIZ. According to the several studies, which are authentic, there are 26 000 small and big rivers in Georgia and all of them at least cross the forests, conformably there are many of freshwater habitats in forests. Also according to the expert opinion, there should be enough freshwater habitats on the compensatory sites. As we assume the study of freshwater habitats in Georgia will be finalized by the autumn 2020, and the results will be introduced to the secretariat of the Bern Convention.

We would like to highlight the significant processes, ongoing for development of Emerald Network in Georgia:

- Study of 12 proposed Emerald Sites for their nomination will be finalized by the end of October, as decided on the 39<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting of the Bern convention;
- Management plans for 7 Emerald Sites, will be prepared by the end of 2020, the process is financially supported by state budget;

- Management Plans for 3 compensatory sites are being prepared in frames of the EU funded project: “Support to Implementation of the Environmental provisions of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement” and will be ready by the end of 2020.
- At this moment Georgia is working with IUCN and GEF to start new big project, which will fund preparation of Management plans for other sites, capacity building for management authorities of emerald sites and awareness rising activities;
- Process of selection of new sites is ongoing;
- Number of new publications on Emerald Network are available for the public;
- There are number of awareness rising activities are ongoing for local communities in regards of Emerald Network.

According to the about mentioned Georgia took more than enough efforts and actions not only for the compensation of Svaneti Emerald Site, but also for development of Emerald Network and we expect that the Bureau will close the case.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia is looking forwards to successful and fruitful cooperation with the Secretariat of Bern Convention towards the further development of Emerald Network in Georgia.

Sincerely,

Iuri Nozadze

Deputy Minister

