



Strasbourg, 13 August 2024

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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**WORKING GROUP ON OVERSEEING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
BERN CONVENTION STRATEGIC PLAN TO 2030**

**Voluntary national updates on Strategic Plan implementation
– draft questionnaire**

Prepared by Dave Pritchard. Consultant

Background note for the Working Group meeting on 29 August 2024

In paragraph 2 of its Recommendation No. 220 (2023) on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030, the Standing Committee recommended that Contracting Parties:

“prior to each Standing Committee meeting, send an update to the Secretariat on any major national achievements regarding progress with the Strategic Plan such as in relation to point 1 of this Recommendation, the compilation of which will be made available to the Standing Committee for information”.

The point 1 referred to, recommended that Contracting Parties:

“reflect and support relevant elements of the Vision and Strategic Plan to 2030 in and through national policies and related measures, including the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), in relation to the conservation of wild flora, fauna and their habitats”.

The present Working Group, at its first meeting on 10 April 2024, approved a Work Plan which includes provision for the Working Group’s second meeting to “agree on a simple questionnaire, drafted by the consultant, for Parties (on a voluntary basis) in relation to national updates on SP implementation (pursuant to Recommendation No. 220 (2023) para 2)”, and for this questionnaire to be sent out following the meeting, for responses from Parties by a deadline in early November. The information provided in the Parties’ national updates will, as also anticipated in the Work Plan, help the Standing Committee to discuss progress with implementation of the Strategic Plan and decide on priorities for next action.

The following pages of the present document provide a suggested draft of the questionnaire. **The Working Group is invited** to review this, and (subject to any necessary modifications) to approve it for prompt circulation to the Parties.

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE BERN CONVENTION TO 2030

Request for voluntary national updates on Strategic Plan implementation

Explanatory note

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A simple format of **four main questions** is provided below to guide the provision of a brief (voluntary) update on the key implementation advances you may wish to report for your country for 2024. **Please return your completed questionnaire no later than Tuesday 5 November**, to the Secretariat at bern.convention@coe.int.

It is expected that the Standing Committee at its 44th meeting (Strasbourg, 2-6 December 2024) will have the opportunity to take note of the progress reflected in these national updates, and to consider any key priorities for future action.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

The Bern Convention Secretariat.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Contracting Party: ...

Compiler of this 2024 questionnaire response:

Name and title ...

Full name of institution ...

Telephone ...

Email ...

I - OVERALL POLICY

In your opinion, to what extent are relevant elements of the Bern Convention [Vision](#) and [Strategic Plan](#) to 2030 reflected in and supported by national policies and related measures in your country?

(Please tick the box for the answer that most closely resembles your country's situation in 2024).

- Only very weakly in most respects, and this needs improvement
- Only partially – some aspects are adequately covered, but there are significant gaps
- Most relevant aspects are adequately covered, and there are no significant gaps
- There is a national policy or related measure that refers directly to the Bern Convention Strategic Plan and is explicitly designed to support it.

Please add any further information to amplify your answer, and if possible please also comment on what support is offered for the Bern Convention Vision and Strategic Plan by your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

II - MAJOR PROGRESS ACHIEVEMENTS

In your country in 2024, what have been the most successful achievements so far in implementing the Bern Convention Vision and Strategic Plan to 2030?

(If possible, it would be helpful to relate these to relevant goals and/or targets in the Strategic Plan):

- **GOAL 1: The area, connectivity, integrity and resilience of natural and semi-natural ecosystems is increased, including through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures covering at least 30% of the land and of the sea areas.**

Target 1.1: Natural and semi-natural ecosystems are maintained and where possible restored or rehabilitated, leading to an overall increase in area, connectivity, integrity and resilience of the natural habitats referred to in the Convention and in Resolution No. 4 (1996).

Target 1.2: Coverage of natural habitats by the Emerald Network meets the sufficiency targets set for 2030 in the post-2020 Work Plan for the Network.

Target 1.3: All sites included in the Emerald Network are effectively managed and subject to formal protection and other effective area-based conservation measures.

Target 1.4: The habitats that the Emerald Network aims to conserve are being maintained at, or progressing towards, a satisfactory conservation status.

Target 1.5: Specific recommendations arising from individual Case Files are followed up and acted upon; and cases are resolved and closed within a reasonable timeframe, taking account of any advice provided by the Standing Committee.

- **GOAL 2: The conservation status of threatened species is improved, abundance of native species has increased, and human-induced extinctions have been halted.**

Target 2.1: The species listed in the Appendices to the Bern Convention and in Appendix 1 to Resolution No. 6 (1998) are at or are recovering towards a satisfactory conservation status.

Target 2.2: Anthropogenic causes of actual or potential negative effects on the conservation status of species of wild flora and fauna are reduced as far as possible to levels that are not detrimental to the conservation and recovery of those species, through targeted measures enacted in legislation, policy and/or management.

- **GOAL 3: The contributions of wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment are valued, maintained and enhanced.**

Target 3.1: The natural environment thrives, thereby benefiting people's livelihoods, food and water security, community resilience, well-being and quality of life.

Target 3.2: Conservation and sustainable use of nature contributes positively to measures relating to human rights, democracy, landscape management, cultural heritage and physical and mental health, and to the prevention and mitigation of major hazards.

Target 3.3: Nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches implemented by Bern Convention Parties contribute to the mitigation of climate change and the adaptation to its effects.

- **GOAL 4: Sufficient resources are available and are used efficiently to achieve all goals and targets in this Plan.**

Target 4.1: Sufficient resources and capacity, including scientific and technical cooperation, are available to achieve all the goals and targets in the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention.

Comments:

III - GREATEST CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED SO FAR

In your country in 2024, what have been the greatest challenges experienced so far in implementing the Bern Convention Vision and Strategic Plan to 2030?

If you wish, you may add information about the specific kinds of support (other than financial) that your country may need to assist it in addressing the challenge(s) identified.

IV - KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR 2025

In your opinion (or state an official position if one exists), what are the most important priorities for action to implement the Bern Convention Vision and Strategic Plan in your country in the coming year?

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please return your responses to bern.convention@coe.int before Tuesday 5 November 2024.