

Strasbourg, 14 September 2018
[Inf04e_2018.docx]

T-PVS/Inf(2018)4

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

38th meeting
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2018

**Management of protected areas
from climate change perspective**

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BERN CONVENTION
CONTRACTING PARTIES AND PARTNERS**

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QUESTIONNAIRE ON MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE PERSPECTIVE

Addressed to Bern Convention Contracting Parties and Partners

Introduction

In the past decade the effects of Climate Change on biodiversity have been increasingly recognised by the Bern Convention. During this period, several recommendations¹ to Contracting Parties have been endorsed by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention. Thousands of highly relevant scientific papers and many books have been published. Several of them cover the whole European territory (i.e. climatic atlases such as for birds and butterflies), thus this information is very informative for all European countries, including those outside the European Union. Based on this existing and constantly improving knowledge, many international and national guidelines have been prepared by various governmental and non-governmental institutions.

A special issue is the role of **protected areas** in adapting biodiversity and its conservation to Climate Change. In the European context, the most relevant and up-to-date guidance to policy makers and site managers is given in the 2013 “Guidelines on Climate Change and Natura 2000”². Although this guideline is primarily dedicated to European Union’s Natura 2000 network of protected areas, all principles are also applicable to the Emerald Network of sites in the non-EU countries .

Yet, it has been observed that Climate Change adaptation/mitigation measures linked to the management of protected areas have been implemented at different scales with various success in different Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention³. Thus the aim of this questionnaire is to reveal and take stock of particular needs of Contracting Parties for tackling Climate Change in the context of the **management of protected areas**, particularly Emerald Network sites. Based on the answers received from the Contracting Parties to this questionnaire, the Bern Convention Secretariat will assess the needs of Contracting Parties and identify appropriate responses which will provide orientations on how to help countries integrate Climate Change in protected areas management frameworks in a more systematic way.

The questionnaire is addressed to Focal Points to the Bern Convention in all its 51 Contracting Parties. As a minimum one response (i.e. filled questionnaire, representing the institution of the Focal Point) from each country should be returned, but Focal Points are free to distribute this questionnaire further to other institutions if they may have an active position with regards to the subject of Climate Change and protected areas.

This questionnaire does not cover issues related to the constitution of Natura 2000 or the Emerald Network, where the elements of mitigation and adaptation to climate change are embedded in the methodology⁴ of setting-up these networks, namely addressing site size and connectivity between sites (even across country borders) which is discussed in the Biogeographical evaluation seminars or bi-lateral meetings on network sufficiency for both EU and non-EU countries. But it is assumed that more sites, or adjustments to site boundaries (both under the Natura 2000 or the Emerald networks) in future would be necessary to face Climate change challenges.

¹ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/recommendations-on-climate-change>

² <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/climatechange/pdf/Guidance%20document.pdf>

³ An analysis of the implementation of recommendations made by the Group of experts on Biodiversity and Climate change (2006-2011) <https://rm.coe.int/1680746249>

⁴ <https://rm.coe.int/168074669d> (p 82)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECTED AREAS: QUESTIONNAIRE

Abbreviations: CC=Climate Change, PA=Protected Areas (i.e. Natura 2000 and Emerald Network)

GENERAL INFORMATION			
Country	ARMENIA	Compiler	Ghalachyan Hasmik
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		Telephone	
		Institution	Ministry of Nature Protection Republic of Armenia

Part I. General indicative self-assessment of progress in the implementation of CC adaptation / mitigation measures linked with protected areas

1. Please provide score from 0 (no CC related issues were addressed) to 5 (ideal situation both in quantity and quality) in the grey area corresponding to each question.

I-1_A	Is the awareness about CC and acceptance that it is unavoidable sufficient/appropriate in your institution?	4
I-1_B	Are conservation objectives for protected areas developed so as to take into account the species, habitat types and ecosystems which are most likely to be affected by CC?	2
I-1_C	Are there adequate pro-active conservation measures in place for PAs which take into account CC aspects?	3
I-1_D	Is the success of conservation measures monitored, and are monitoring results publicly available and taken into account in reviewing conservation objectives and management techniques?	0

Additional comments if appropriate:

In the (N364-U, October 27, 2008) order of the RA Minister of Nature Protection "On Approving Methodological Guidelines for the Establishment of Specially Protected Nature Areas Management Plans" contains a requirement to include information on climate change forecasting, direct impacts and vulnerabilities.

There is programme and support for improving the management system of SPAs in Armenia.

Additional questions

I-1_E	<p>Please provide an indicative coverage of sites (in %) of PA network in your country which have operative management plans in place that are systematically reviewed based on monitoring data:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Khosrov forest" State reserve- 23 213,5ha 2. "Sevan" National park -147 456,0 ha 3. "Lake Arpi" National park- 21 039 ha 	
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	4. "Dilijan" National park- 33 765,0 ha Total 4 sites occupy 225 473,5 ha and consist of the 7,58% of the country's territory.	
I-1_F	Are there species and/or habitats or protected areas for which CC effects have been already documented in your country? Please provide a list with comments as appropriate. This is a free text. Where appropriate, please add also links to any relevant publication or web-resource (preferably in English):	

Additional comments if appropriate:

The SPAs vulnerability is analysed and reported in the 3rd National Communication of Armenia (2015).
<http://nature-ic.am/en/publication/THIRD-NATIONAL-COMMUNICATION/7367>

The impact of CC is analysed on in-vertebrate species included in the Red Book of Armenia.
<http://nature-ic.am/Content/announcements/7326/Must%20be%20conserved.pdf>

<http://nature-ic.am/hy/publications/NationalReports/0/0>

Among the most well-studied species of snakes are Darevski viper, mountain viper, Armenian viper. Darevski viper is of special interest: its areal is rather limited and covers south-eastern part of Javakheti mountain ridge at heights 2600-2800m above the sea level. The fact of the increase of this species' areal bottom border on 100m for the last 40 years is noteworthy. Estimating biotic and abiotic factors of the microbiotop, it is possible to assume, that the areal displacement of the species has taken place as a result of some climate warming in the region. The specified fact testifies to the opportunity of bioindication of global climate change through the change of areals of this unique species. It should be noted though, that at the considered climate change scenario the given species will be exposed to extinction, because at heights of more than 2800m there are no satisfactory ecological conditions necessary for development and hibernation (stone placers, among which this species spends most of its life time). The adaptability of Darevski vipers is low, and in the forecasted temperature mode part of the population (about 50%) will die away.

Part II. Specific account of problems and obstacles encountered in the implementation of Climate Change adaptation/mitigation measures linked with the management of protected areas

1. Please indicate (by ticking X in the corresponding box) the problems/obstacles in reaching sufficient awareness of CC in your institution. Select one or more of offered options, or describe in your own words:

II-1_A	None	<input type="checkbox"/>
II-1_B	Lack of information supporting the importance of CC for your country, or lack of knowledge where such information can be found	<input type="checkbox"/>
II-1_C	Information exists but there are difficulties in interpreting the evidence in a meaningful	<input type="checkbox"/>

	way for your country	
II-1_D	There are no documented observations of negative trends of wild species and habitats in your country which can be attributed to CC	<input type="checkbox"/>
II-1_E	Other, please specify: There are certain studies related to the CC impacts on the mountainous ecosystems, however there is no systemic observation and monitoring of the CC on SPAs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional comments if appropriate:		

2. Please indicate (by ticking X in the corresponding box) any obstacles in setting appropriate conservation objectives for protected areas taking into account CC. Select one or more of offered options, or describe in your own words:

II-2_A	None	<input type="checkbox"/>
II-2_B	Lack of analytical skills and experience in searching for relevant information and data interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/>
II-2_C	Poor information on presence of species and habitats in protected areas Lack of up-to-date data	<input type="checkbox"/>
II-2_D	The procedure for setting conservation objectives for individual species and habitats for each protected area is not established	<input type="checkbox"/>
II-2_E	Other, please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional comments if appropriate:		
The conservation objectives are clearly identified for each SPA considering the species, ecosystems conservation, however there is no CC related policy yet identified		

3. Please indicate (by ticking X in the corresponding box) why appropriate conservation measures for CC adaptation/mitigation are not either fully or partly implemented. Select one or more of offered options, or describe in your own words:

II-3_A	None	<input type="checkbox"/>
II-3_B	Lack of knowledge/experience about appropriate management techniques	<input type="checkbox"/>
II-3_C	Difficulties to act in private land and to involve landowners	x
II-3_D	Lack of cross-sectoral cooperation	X
II-3_E	Lack of funding	x

II-3_F

Other, please specify:



Additional comments if appropriate:

The Ministry of Nature Protection is currently reviewing the EIA procedures for inclusion of CC risk and adaptation requirements.

4. Please indicate (by ticking X in the corresponding box) the obstacles/problems in monitoring management results and sharing such information at national and/or international level. Select one or more of offered options, or describe in your own words:

II-4_A	None	<input type="checkbox"/>
II-4_B	Lack of general monitoring scheme for PAs	X
II-4_C	Lack of sufficiently qualified staff	X
II-4_D	Information exists but the importance of sharing it is not recognised	x
II-4_E	Other, please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional comments if appropriate:

Part III. Ideas and suggestions on how the Bern Convention Secretariat could assist Contracting Parties to improve the implementation of Climate Change adaptation/mitigation measures associated with management of protected areas

1. Please indicate (by ticking X in the corresponding box) possible suggestions for improving awareness of CC in your institution. Select one or more of offered options, or describe in your own words:

III-1_A	Demonstrate (through seminars and study visits) how the experience from Natura 2000 can be transferred to the Emerald Network	X
III-1_B	Provide positive examples to show that many adaptation/mitigation measures “work in real life” and in some cases do not even require a lot of resources	x
III-1_C	Showcase examples of working organisational structures at national level and strategic policy documents supporting the awareness of CC at institutional level	x
III-1_D	Other, please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional comments if appropriate:

2. Please indicate (by ticking X in the corresponding box) suggestions which could support the setting up of conservation objectives for protected areas taking into account CC. Select one or more of offered options, or describe in your own words:

III-2_A	Training seminars on practical setting of conservation objectives at site level	X
III-2_B	Training on how to find, use and interpret data on the vulnerability of ecosystems / species / habitats to CC and how they relate to site- and country-specific contexts	X
III-2_C	Other, please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional comments if appropriate:

3. Please indicate (by ticking X in the corresponding box) suggestions which could support the implementation of conservation measures for CC adaptation/mitigation. Select one or more of offered options, or describe in your own words:

III-3_A	Study tours to sites which already implement conservation measures for CC adaptation/mitigation	X
III-3_B	Launch of an international knowledge exchange on site management similar to the “new bio-geographical process” in the EU ⁵ [This also relates to all other points in this section]	X
III-3_C	Provide guidance on where to find published materials on adequate management techniques	x
III-3_D	Other, please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional comments if appropriate:

4. Please indicate (by ticking X in the corresponding box) suggestions which could support the monitoring of management results and the sharing of this information at national and/or international level. Select one or more of offered options, or describe in your own words:

III-4_A	Seminars aimed to foster the development of monitoring systems of species and habitats	X
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⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/seminars_en.htm

III-4_B	Training on adaptive management planning: how to use monitoring results to review conservation objectives	X
III-4_C	Other, please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional comments if appropriate:		