



Strasbourg, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

T-PVS(2024)MISC

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

44<sup>th</sup> meeting

Strasbourg, 2 - 6 December 2024

Strasbourg

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Opening of the meeting: 2.00 pm CET on Monday, 2 December 2024

**LIST OF DECISIONS  
AND ADOPTED TEXTS**

*Document prepared by  
the Secretariat of the Bern Convention*

## PART I – OPENING

### 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Relevant document: T-PVS/Agenda(2024)13 – draft agenda of 44<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee

#### **The Standing Committee:**

1. Welcomed its new observer, the Born Free Foundation.
2. Was reminded that the Bern Convention celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.
3. Was informed by its Chair, Ms Merike Linnamägi, of staff changes since the last meeting of the Standing Committee, with departures of Mr Eoghan Kelly, Junior professional, and the arrivals of Ms Marta Medlinska, administrator, Mr Pep Amengual, policy adviser seconded from Spain, Mr Mark Barlow, administrative assistant, Ms Irina Spoiala, administrative assistant and trainees Inès Carter and Hugh O'Reilly.
4. Took note of the welcoming remarks of the Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment, Mr Rafael Benitez, and of the European Union (EU) and its Member States.
5. Adopted its agenda (Appendix I).

### 2. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DELEGATIONS AND FROM THE SECRETARIAT

#### **The Standing Committee:**

6. Took note of the meeting reports and the information presented.
7. Was reminded that Belarus denounced the Bern Convention with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

#### **2.1. Follow up to the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe on 16-17 May 2023 in Reykjavík, Iceland**

*2.1.1. Creation of the Department on the Reykjavík process and the environment/ Directorate social, rights, health and environment*

*2.1.2. Involvement of the Bern Convention in the Reykjavík process*

*2.1.3. Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME)*

Relevant documents: GME(2024)1 – Terms of Reference of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME)  
GME(2024)ARI – Abridged report of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the GME

#### **The Standing Committee:**

8. Took note of the information provided by the Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment, Mr Rafael Benitez, about the follow-up given to the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe held on 16-17 May 2023 in Reykjavík, Iceland, and confirmed its support to the Reykjavík process. It welcomed the creation of the Department on the Reykjavík process and the environment within the new Directorate, as well as information on the involvement of the Bern Convention in the Reykjavík process and on the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME).
9. Took note of the terms of reference of the GME according to which the GME is instructed to prepare a draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment and a related Action Plan for its implementation in accordance with the Reykjavík Declaration. These are expected to be finalised in due time for their possible adoption at the ministerial session of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers in Luxembourg in May 2025. The GME has already met once, for preparatory work on 25-27 September 2024. Its 2nd meeting is on 9-11 December 2024 and a 3rd meeting will be held on 11-13 February 2025 where the Strategy and its Action Plan are expected to be adopted. The Standing Committee acknowledged the importance of a Council of Europe Strategy on the environment but stressed that biodiversity should be fully integrated in the six overarching themes and the need to duly consider the key role of the Bern Convention.

10. Was informed by its Chair about her participation in the 1st GME meeting (25-27 September 2024).

### **3. FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION**

#### **3.1. Financing of the Bern Convention**

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2024)13 - Report of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the *ad hoc* Drafting Group of an Amending Protocol  
T-PVS(2024)10 - Fourth draft Protocol amending the Bern Convention  
T-PVS/Inf(2024)19 - The Bern Convention financial situation

##### **The Standing Committee:**

11. Was informed by the Chair of the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group of an Amending Protocol, Mr Charles-Henri de Barsac, that the *Ad hoc* Drafting Group discussed the state of play on the issue. He highlighted that the Secretariat presented a revised version of the Protocol amending the Bern Convention (document T-PVS(2024)10), which was aligned with the concerns expressed by the Council of Europe legal services. He also referred to the discussions held between the legal services of the Council of Europe and the EU to find a solution regarding the contribution rate of the EU, which remained unresolved. Finally, he referred to the suggestion to create a voluntary Council of Europe Environmental Trust Fund which would collect funds for activities linked to the environment, including the Bern Convention.
12. The Standing Committee was informed that its Chair participated in two meetings of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group in charge of the Bern Convention (the Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment, GR-C) to discuss the Bern Convention financial situation.
13. The Secretariat referred to document T-PVS/Inf(2024)19 which sets out problems posed by the draft Amending Protocol, such as its alignment with the institutional and regulatory framework of the Council of Europe. It was also stressed that the entry into force of the amending protocol remains very hypothetical.
14. The Standing Committee decided that, because of the uncertainties related to the Trust Fund, work on the amending protocol should be pursued, to fulfil the mandate given by the Committee of Ministers to ensure stable, sufficient, predictable, long-lasting and fair financing of the Convention. It adopted terms of reference of a Working Group on exploring sustainable financing options for the Bern Convention for that effect. The Standing Committee entrusted also the Working Group to consider any decisions that may be taken at the May 2025 session of the Committee of Ministers on the establishment of a Council of Europe Environment Trust Fund (CETF), and to propose the most appropriate solutions regarding financing options for the Bern Convention (see Appendix II).

#### **3.2. Voluntary contributions received in 2024: state of play**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Inf(2024)08Rev – Table of the voluntary contributions received

##### **The Standing Committee:**

15. Took note with regret that the number of Parties making voluntary contributions had decreased, and the level of those contributions had dropped from 387 000 euros in 2023 to 242 000 euros in 2024.
16. Took note of the statistics provided by the Secretariat highlighting the annual amounts of voluntary contributions, the annual number of voluntary contributors and how often Parties had paid a voluntary contribution since 2011.
17. Took note that while several Parties make regular contributions, 19 Contracting Parties had never paid a voluntary contribution. There was still a need to improve the stability and level of the finances of the Convention. The Committee urged all Contracting Parties to regularly support the Convention according to their capacities.
18. Agreed on the suggested scale of voluntary contributions for 2025 as set in [Resolution No. 9 \(2019\)](#) and invited Parties to continue paying voluntary contributions and to provide the Secretariat with the necessary resources to support the delivery of the Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention for the period to 2030.

### 3.3. Vision and Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2024)02 - Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan  
 T-PVS(2024)08 – Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Working Group overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan  
 T-PVS(2024)12 – Operationalising the Strategic Plan’s indicators – next steps  
 T-PVS(2024)14 – Compilation of the national voluntary updates on the Strategic Plan implementation

#### **The Standing Committee:**

19. Welcomed the outcomes of both meetings of the Working Group, in particular the suggested approach for each of the sixteen agreed indicators in the Strategic Plan and the design of a dedicated webpage.
20. Supported the proposed specific actions to be taken to bring each of the indicators into practical operation (document [T-PVS\(2024\)12](#)) and which would serve as a basis for drafting a roadmap of the forthcoming work of Working Group overseeing implementation of the Strategic Plan.
21. Took note of the compilation of the national voluntary updates (document [T-PVS\(2024\)14](#)) aimed to understand whether the implementation of the Strategic Plan was underway and whether Parties were facing challenges.
22. Invited the Working Group to consider leaving more time to Parties to provide informed national voluntary updates and to ask Parties whether they agree to make their voluntary updates public.
23. Recalled that the monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Plan should be streamlined with other mechanisms such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework or existing reporting exercises under the EU legislation or the Bern Convention.
24. Thanked the Consultant, Mr Dave Pritchard for his dedicated work and Parties which provided national voluntary updates.

## **PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS**

### **4. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION**

#### **4.1. Biennial reports 2021-2022 concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8**

#### **The Standing Committee:**

25. Was reminded that Article 9.2 of the Bern Convention requests Parties to report on the exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, in the form of biennial reports. Last year had marked the end of the 2021-2022 biennium. The deadline for submitting reports of this period as well as any older unsubmitted reports had been set end of October 2023.
26. Was informed that, to date, 30 Contracting Parties had submitted either a report via the Online Reporting System (ORS), or, for EU Member States, the Habides+ tool.
27. Was informed that the new version of the ORS which was being developed by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) should be fully operational by December 2024.
28. Was informed that a transition plan would provide for technical support, user guidance, documentation and training sessions.
29. Took note that the questionnaire for the reporting on the period 2023 -2024 should be developed on the new version of the ORS and launched in 2025.

## **4.2. Proposal for amendment: Downlisting of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) from Appendix II to Appendix III of the Convention**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf(2024)15 – Proposal by the European Union to amend Appendices II and III of the Bern Convention of the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats by moving the wolf (*Canis lupus*) from Appendix II to Appendix III  
The Bern Convention and the protection of the Wolf – FAQ

### **The Standing Committee:**

30. Took note of the EU proposal to downlist the wolf (*Canis lupus*) from Appendix II to Appendix III of the Bern Convention and positions of Parties and Observers in relation to this matter.
31. At the request of the EU representative, Contracting Parties were asked to vote.
32. The EU on behalf of its 27 Member States and Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and Ukraine supported the amendment.
33. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Monaco, Montenegro and the United Kingdom opposed the amendment.
34. Tunisia and Türkiye abstained.
35. With a majority of 38 votes in favour, the required two-thirds majority of the Contracting Parties was reached and the proposed amendment was adopted.
36. Concluded that the change would enter into force three months after the date of the formal adoption of the amendment, counted as of 6 December 2024, unless at least one third of the Parties to the Council of Europe's Bern Convention (17) object, in which case it will not enter into force. If fewer than one third of the Parties object, the decision will enter into force only for those Parties which have not objected.
37. Reminded the Contracting Parties that despite the change in the wolf's protection status, the rules of the Bern Convention still apply and need to be observed, notably Art 1(1), Art. 2, Art. 7 and Art. 9. The wolf populations need to be maintained at, or brought to, a level which corresponds to ecological and scientific requirements in accordance with Article 2. Their populations need to be kept out of danger and measures to be taken shall include the temporary or local prohibition of exploitation, as appropriate, in order to restore satisfactory population levels. Exceptions are only possible under the specific circumstances mentioned in Art.9 (1).
38. Asked Contracting Parties to continue reporting on exceptions for the wolf every two years in accordance with Article 9(2). The Standing Committee requested the Expert Group on Large Carnivores to closely monitor the population of the wolf, in close cooperation with the Large Carnivores Initiative for Europe, and to report to the Standing Committee after each meeting of the Expert Group.
39. Created a Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention to reflect on a dedicated evidence based mechanism and criteria for granting or changing the protection status of a species (see the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention in Appendix III of the list of decisions).

## **PART III – MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS**

### **5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS**

#### **5.1. Conservation of Birds & IKB**

##### **The Standing Committee:**

40. Welcomed further Parties' contributions to the IKB Scoreboard and stressed its importance for assessing the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds and for enabling national governments to adapt their policies and practices to ensure the overall objective of eradicating IKB is achieved.
41. Took note of the joint Bern Convention IKB Focal Points and CMS MIKT meeting, where the Scoreboard results, the progress in the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan, litigation and enforcement, technological advancements in tracing IKB were to be discussed.
42. Took note of the planned thematic scope of the meeting of the Group of Experts on the Conservation of Wild Birds, including lowering the negative impact of power lines and wind turbines on birds.

43. Regretted that the two meetings could not be held in Türkiye in 2024 and thanked all the stakeholders for their efforts to organise the meetings in 2024.
44. Took note of the call to Parties to host the joint meeting with the CMS MIKT on IKB to be held in 2025 and invited Contracting Parties to actively engage by participating at the meeting.

## **5.2. Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck**

### **The Standing Committee:**

45. Took note of the oral report of the expert meeting on the implementation of the Action Plan for the eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the Western Palearctic, 2021-2025, held online on 22nd November 2024.
46. Welcomed the progress in the eradication of the invasive Ruddy Duck in Europe, in light of the results presented during the meeting of the expert group on the species and the conclusions of the 2023 Progress Report on the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* in the Western Palearctic on the implementation of the 2021–2025 action plan.
47. Agreed that considering 1) the current situation in the European countries which reported to the expert meeting, 2) the mobility of the species, 3) the growing efforts that the eradication of the last remnants of an introduced species supposes, the target of Ruddy Duck being functionally extinct in the wild in Europe will not be reached by 2025, end of the current action plan.
48. Considered that, in the light of these facts, more efforts should continue to be invested in the future with a follow-up Action Plan for the coming years.
49. Tasked the expert group to prepare a progress review of the implementation of the Action Plan for the eradication of the Ruddy Duck in Europe 2021–2025 and a draft revised Action Plan for the period 2026-2030.

## **5.3. Conservation of Large Carnivores**

### **The Standing Committee:**

50. Took note of the information presented regarding the involvement of the Bern Convention Secretariat in activities related to Large Carnivores: in the joint conference of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions for the exchange of practices on management of large carnivores, which took place in March 2024 in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, within the project LECA; in the “Challenges & opportunities for the conservation of reptiles and large carnivores during linear infrastructure development in South-East Europe” which took place in April 2024 in Kresna, Bulgaria; and in the “Transnational exchange platform for the management of large carnivores in the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos region” which took place in June 2024 in Sofia, Bulgaria.
51. Took note of the CMS decision on listing the Balkan Lynx in Appendix I of CMS and Eurasian Lynx in Appendix II and expressed support for the cooperation of the Bern Convention and its Group of Experts on Large Carnivores with the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group in their work on developing guidelines, strategies or action plans for the conservation of the relevant Lynx sub-species.
52. Welcomed the preparations for the meeting of the Group of Experts on Large Carnivores in the first semester 2025, at which lynx protection will be discussed in cooperation with the IUCN and CMS, a.o., before presenting draft Conservation Strategies for the Carpathian Lynx and the Balkan Lynx to the Standing Committee for its initial consideration.
53. Encouraged all Contracting Parties of the Bern Convention to further develop cooperation for effective conservation, management and monitoring of transboundary populations of large carnivores in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

## **5.4. Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of Sturgeons**

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2024)07 – Draft recommendation on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons/ on sturgeon population monitoring / on ex situ conservation measures for sturgeons  
T-PVS(2024)16 – Technical guideline on habitat assessment  
T-PVS(2024)17 – Technical guideline on population monitoring  
T-PVS(2024)18 – Technical guideline on ex-situ conservation measures  
T-PVS/PA(2024)05 – Report of the second meeting of the National Focal Points for the Pan-European Action Plan for sturgeons

### **The Standing Committee:**

54. Was informed by the Chair of the national focal points, Ms. Salome Nozadze, of the outcomes of the second meeting of the Focal Points of Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons, which had taken place in-person on June 10-11 June 2024 in Strasbourg.
55. Took note of the findings of the mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons.
56. Welcomed the technical guidelines supporting the effective implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of sturgeons and backed them up by adopting Recommendation No. 222 (2024) on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons (Appendix IV), Recommendation No. 223 (2024) on sturgeon population monitoring (Appendix V) and Recommendation No. 224 (2024) on ex situ conservation measures for sturgeons (Appendix VI).
57. Invited range Contracting Parties to raise awareness about the guidelines and to encourage their application.
58. Instructed the Secretariat to enhance the visibility of and ensure accessibility to the guidelines.
59. Recommended that reference to these guidelines serve as a criterion in the development and funding of project proposals related to sturgeon conservation.

## **5.5. Amphibians and Reptiles and Invasive Alien Species (IAS)**

### **The Standing Committee:**

60. Was informed by its Chair of the outcome of the joint meeting held with the Chair of the Groups of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles and the Chair of the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species to discuss possible synergies between the two Groups of Experts on issues of common interest. Recalling that the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species didn't meet for five years, it was suggested to organise such a meeting in 2025 in Strasbourg, depending on the Secretariat's capacity and possibly back-to-back with the Groups of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles, with an overlapping part of the agenda and a field visit.

## **5.6. Conservation of Habitats**

### *5.6.1. Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest*

Relevant document: T-PVS/PA(2024)09 – meeting report of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks

- a) Legal framework of the Emerald Network

Relevant document: T-PVS/PA(2024)11 – Draft recommendation on the further clarification of the obligations of Contracting Parties regarding the conservation of Emerald Network sites

- b) Targets of the post-2020 Emerald Network Strategic Workplan

Relevant document: T-PVS/PA(2024)05 – Revisited targets for the Emerald Network for the period to 2030

- c) Proposed revision of the Emerald Network Standard Data Form (SDF)

Relevant document: T-PVS/PA(2024)04 – Implications of and options for revising the Emerald Network Standard Data Form

- d) Draft updated list of adopted Emerald Network sites and draft updated list of candidate Emerald Network sites

Relevant document: T-PVS/PA(2024)18 – Draft updated list of Emerald Network candidate sites  
T-PVS/PA(2024)19 – Draft updated list of Emerald Network adopted sites

**The Standing Committee:**

61. Took note of the outcomes of the 14th meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks and thanked the authorities of Liechtenstein for hosting it.
62. Adopted with amendments Recommendation No. 225 (2024) on the further clarification of the obligations of Contracting Parties regarding the conservation of Emerald Network sites (Appendix VII).
63. Endorsed the proposed targets for the Emerald Network for the period to 2030 (Appendix VIII) consisting in the submission of updated and improved Emerald Network databases resulting in biogeographical evaluations, the improvement of the sufficiency index and the adoption and management of sites. It noted with regret the lack of new site designations and database updates in recent years in most Contracting Parties, and further encouraged Parties to be more ambitious in order to meet the targets on protected areas of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
64. Mandated the Secretariat, in relation with the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, to revise the Emerald Network Standard Data Form to keep it harmonised with the Natura 2000 Standard Data Form and to enable the development of the appropriate processes needed to designate Emerald Network sites in the future. A revised Emerald Network Standard Data Form should be presented to the 45th Standing Committee.
65. Welcomed the request of the authorities of Liechtenstein to adopt their two candidate Emerald Network sites and adopted the updated list of adopted Emerald Network sites and updated list of candidate Emerald Network sites (Appendix IX).
66. Instructed the Secretariat to identify ways to support the engaged actors and stakeholders at national level involved in the Emerald Network in the relevant Contracting Parties to ensure updated databases are submitted to the Bern Convention over the next couple of years.

*5.6.2. European Diploma for Protected Area*

Relevant document: T-PVS/DE(2024)12 – Report of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas

**The Standing Committee:**

67. Was informed by the Chair of the Group of Specialists, Mr Jan Plesnik, of the outcomes of the annual meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas which had taken place in-person on 20-21 February 2024 in Strasbourg.
68. Welcomed the recommendation of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma to renew the European Diploma of six areas following on-the-spot appraisal visits and the decision of the Committee of Ministers of June 2024 formally renewing the Diploma of these 6 areas.
69. Took note that the Secretariat followed up with areas requiring special attention: Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve (Germany), Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve (Germany), Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site (Austria) and Doñana National Park (Spain).
70. Welcomed the application of the Sierra Nevada National Park (Spain) for the European Diploma and took note that in 2024 an on-the-spot appraisal visit had been organised to the area, and that in the light of this visit, the application would be re-examined in 2025.
71. Took note of the on-the-spot appraisal visit to the Regional Park Gallipoli Cognato (Italy) to assess the opportunity to renew its European Diploma for the first time.
72. Welcomed the confirmation that Spain would host the celebration event organised within the frame of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Diploma provisionally scheduled on 21-22 May 2025 in Granada, and that the meeting would showcase good practices of interest to the community of the Diploma holding areas.
73. Took note of the state of preparation of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Diploma in particular the update of a publication and a communication and awareness raising campaign on the achievements of the European Diploma and its contribution to human well-being.



## **5.7. Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the conservation status of species and habitats**

Relevant document: T-PVS/PA(2024)10 – Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting  
T-PVS/PA(2024)17 – Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting  
T-PVS/PA(2024)14 – Reporting Format  
T-PVS/PA(2024)15 – Checklists of Species and Habitats  
T-PVS/PA(2024)12 – List of Invasive Alien Species  
T-PVS/PA(2024)13 – Reporting guidelines – Explanatory notes  
T-PVS/PA(2024)16 – Reporting guidelines – Concepts and definitions

### **The Standing Committee:**

74. Welcomed the progress achieved by the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting.
75. Endorsed the reporting format ([T-PVS/PA\(2024\)14](#)) and welcomed its alignment on the format of the reporting under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive. It acknowledged that a harmonised reporting for all Parties will allow measuring how well they comply with their obligations under the Convention.
76. Endorsed the Checklist of species and habitats ([T-PVS/PA\(2024\)15](#)) considered for the reporting, took note that bird species were excluded, that reporting on marine features would be optional and that only habitats with a 1:1 relationship with the EU Habitats Directive were included.
77. Endorsed the Guidelines on Explanatory Notes ([T-PVS/PA\(2024\)13](#)) and on Concepts and Definitions ([T-PVS/PA\(2024\)16](#)).
78. Endorsed the list of Invasive Alien Species considered as a possible threat to species and habitats protected by the Bern Convention included in the Checklist of species and habitats (Appendix X).
79. Thanked the European Environment Agency for its technical support and the adaptation of the delivery platform (Reportnet 3) to the specificities of the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012).
80. Mandated the Secretariat to draft, in liaison with the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting, Terms of Reference of a full-fledged Group of Experts on Reporting for the consideration of the 45<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee.

## **PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS**

### **6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS**

#### **6.1. Open Files**

- **1986/08: Greece: Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of *Caretta caretta* in Laganas Bay, Zaynthos**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)50 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)51 - Complainant Report

### **The Standing Committee:**

81. Took note of the reports of both parties and the NGO ARCHELON, and thanked both the authorities and MEDASSET, the complainant, for their presentations.
82. Noted some improvements reported by the authorities, the complainant and the NGO. These included increased signage and warden presence, a trend (over two consecutive years) of increased nesting, and the successful limitation of vehicles and horses on the beach, thanks to the placement of wooden poles.
83. Acknowledged also the improvements from the Greek government regarding the application of the principles of adapted management and the Bern Convention guidelines, as well as the effectiveness of applied protection measures demonstrated by the rising trend of nesting activities.
84. Regretted the persistence of some of the key concerns of the case brought forward by the complainant and the NGO. These included turtle stranding, the increased issuing of boat licenses leading to turtle spotting, the increasing uses of beaches and beach furniture, human presence on the nesting beach at night, delayed and partial application of roping to prevent human trampling of nests, light pollution, inconsistencies in the

application of management measures across the whole ZNMP, illegal developments despite court orders for demolition and environmental restoration, and illegal constructions despite fines.

- 85.Regarding the landfill in the ‘Skopos’ area, the Committee noted that it was the subject of a referral from the European Commission in 2023 (C-600/12) to the European Court of Justice for non-compliance. An Environmental Impact Assessment on its restoration is under public consultation, and the local Management Unit of NECCA/OFYPECA is currently formulating its opinion.
- 86.Acknowledged the recent developments regarding the penal follow-up on the road opening case between Gerakas and Daphne. The person concerned was convicted by the court of appeal for misdemeanours, and the subsequent appeal filed was rejected, thus rendering the decision final. Furthermore, that same landowner concerned was condemned in July 2024 by the Court of first instance in Zakynthos, but the decision was appealed and will be examined in the coming months.
- 87.Welcomed the recent progress reported on the file but noted the ongoing issues.
- 88.Decided to mandate an on-the-spot appraisal (together with the OSA in Thines Kiparissias). Noted that the file remains open and both parties were invited to report to the Bureau in Spring 2025.

➤ **1995/06: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)XX - Government Report  
 T-PVS/Files(2024)48 - Complainant Report  
 T-PVS/Files(2024)80 – NGO ARCHELON Report

**The Standing Committee:**

- 89.Took note of the report from the Republic of Cyprus and thanked both of the parties for their presentations.
- 90.Noticed the progress that represented the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which involved an active role for the complainant in the protection of marine turtles. However, it regretted that no progress was reported on this initiative.
- 91.Took note of the concerns presented by the complainant, including the insufficient designation of Natura 2000 sites, and insufficient patrolling. Furthermore, the complainant was alarmed by the new Quarry Zone in the area of Androlikou adjacent to the Natura 2000 sites, which is currently pending.
- 92.Welcomed the prosecution of offenders concerning illegal restaurants around the beaches of Lara and Toxeftra, and that one of the court’s decisions on the dismantlement of a bar was implemented. However, it was informed by the complainant that illegal restaurants were still operating.
- 93.Noticed the European Commission's (EC) intervention regarding its Reasoned Opinion of 13 March 2024 (INFR(2019)2303) against Cyprus for the inadequate management of Natura 2000 Network protected areas as SACs and SPAs are not adequately protected. Additionally, adequate conservation objectives and measures have not been established for the Akamas Peninsula. On the same day, (INFR(2021)2064) the EC referred Cyprus to the Court of Justice of the European Union for failing to designate sites of community importance (SCIs) as special areas of conservation (SACs) for the protected areas of the Natura 2000 Network and to establish the necessary conservation objectives and measures for these sites. It was noted that conservation objectives have been established for the Peninsula, but not conservation measures. The Committee requested to be informed of the follow-up given to this.
- 94.Expressed serious concern that after so many years, the majority of the thirteen points of [Recommendation No. 191 \(2016\)](#) had still not been fully followed-up by the authorities and that, according to interested actors, the main threats remain. The Committee asked the Cypriot authorities to step up efforts in implementing the Recommendation.
- 95.Noticed that the file remains open, and both parties were invited to report to the Bureau in Spring 2025. The Committee encourages the government to use the points of the Recommendation as a basis for their reporting.

➤ **2010/05: Greece: Threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)46 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)47 - Complainant Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)81 – NGO ARCHELON Report

**The Standing Committee:**

96. Took note of the reports provided by both parties and the NGO ARCHELON, and thanked both the authorities and MEDASSET, the complainant, for their presentation.
97. Recognised the Greek Government's commitment to implementing [Recommendation No. 174 \(2014\)](#), and to finalising the Management Plan for Kyparissia Bay. The Committee also acknowledged the Government's commitment to making use of the adopted guidance tool on the conservation of sea turtles nesting sites.
98. Noted data suggesting the number of reproductive adults now exceeds conservation targets set in national legislation in 2023, and welcomed the progress being made in this area.
99. Recognised that other positive steps are being taken including the completion of the study on regulation and limitation of anthropogenic within the protected area, the hiring of personnel to reinforce patrols and surveillance, the placement of informative signs on the nesting beaches, and the removal of a canteen in the 'Vounaki' site.
100. Noted also the completion and findings of the assessment on potential implications of constructions and roads in the protected area, published in November, following a meeting with the European Commission in April 2024. The Committee also acknowledged that a Joint Ministerial Decision had been issued in April 2024 aimed at setting terms and restrictions in highly protected beaches and coasts, including the Natura-2000 site.
101. Regretted the persistence however, of key concerns brought forward by the complainant and ARCHELON, demonstrating failure to fully implement [Recommendation No. 174 \(2014\)](#). These concerns include vehicle activity on the nesting beaches, the presence of invasive species, sand dune destruction due to agricultural use, light pollution, poor beach equipment management, construction in the protected area, and a lack of action being taken by the authorities to prevent human activity in protected areas. The Committee also noted concerns raised by the complainant on the delay of the Special Environmental Study including the Thines Kiparissias site, due to be completed in October 2021.
102. Urged the Greek Government to adhere to a full and meaningful implementation of [Recommendation No. 174 \(2014\)](#), along with enforcing the Presidential Decree regulations. The Committee strongly encouraged the authorities to finalise and implement the Management Plan for the protected area, covering unresolved issues not addressed in the P.D regulations. The Committee also encouraged prompt implementation of proposed measures following the completion of the study on regulation and limitation of anthropogenic within the protected area and awaited deliverables of the Monitoring and Assessment Project on the conservation status of species and habitats in Greece, due in 2025. The Standing Committee requested to be informed about progress in the implementation of the above recommendations and share the study on regulation and limitation of anthropogenic impacts within the protected area after its adoption by the competent authority.
103. Decided to mandate an on-the-spot appraisal (together with the OSA in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos). Noted that the file remains open and both parties were invited to report to the Bureau in Spring 2025.

➤ **2012/09: Türkiye: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)69 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)49 - Complainant Report

**The Standing Committee:**

104. Took note of the reports by both parties and thanked them for their presentations.

105. Invited the Turkish Government to pursue their efforts to implement Recommendation [No. 182 \(2015\)](#) and [No. 183 \(2015\)](#) and welcomed both the initiation of sea turtle monitoring and conservation studies, and conservation management plan studies.
106. Also recognised that some improvements have been made, although noted that these are primarily limited to the Patara Main Beach, while other areas are neglected and conservation issues affecting the nesting beaches remained.
107. Regretted the persistence of a large number of key concerns brought forward by the complainant including construction in protected areas, failure to remove illegal facilities, poor management of beach furniture, light pollution, marine violations, camping in restricted areas, horse riding and vehicle activity on the beach, beach litter, inadequate enforcement of fines, and inadequate implementation of conservation measures.
108. Urged the Turkish Government to finalise the Management Plan for Patara, to report on the findings of the sea turtle monitoring and conservation and management plan studies, to maintain adherence to the Recommendations and continue their implementation without delay.
109. Noted that the file remains open. Both parties were invited to report to the Bureau in Spring 2025.

➤ **2013/01: North Macedonia: Hydro power development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)62 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)61 - Complainant Report

**The Standing Committee:**

110. Thanked the representatives of the government and the complainant for their contributions but regretted that no reports were provided by the government.
111. Recalled that urgent progress is needed regarding certain areas of [Recommendation No. 211 \(2021\)](#), as expressed by the Standing Committee in December 2023 and reiterated by the complainant.
112. Took note from the complainant that there was still no ban on hydropower in the draft Water Law, contrary to what is required by international standards. The New Nature Law is still under preparation and consultations are expected in 2025, this could constitute an advancement.
113. Noted that in November 2024 the Government extended the concession contract for several SHPP, one of them in the Shar Mountain NP, although the contracts have expired. Regarding the two SHPP concessions in Mavrovo that were cancelled in February 2023, the decision is still not in effect as the contracts have not been cancelled. Lastly, concerning SHPP Ribnicka, the concession had not been revoked and no process has been initiated in that sense.
114. Was concerned that there were no significant updates since the last report concerning the proclamation of Mavrovo NP. The zoning has still not been finalised, and no work has started on the Management Plan. Regarding the study for the revalorisation of the NP noted that nothing has been reported since the public hearings last June 2024 with the stakeholders. Furthermore, regarding the Lynx Action Plan, no progress has been made, and no state funding is available.
115. Stressed the importance for the national authorities to apply [Recommendation No. 211\(2021\)](#) and to respect its international reporting under the Bern Convention, as well as to further reinforce cooperation between State authorities, civil society organisations, and stakeholder groups. However, it welcomed that cooperation between the parties was enhanced through informal meetings.
116. Took note of the remarks of the European Commission (EC) on the inadequacy of the legislation with EU environmental law as well as the negative impacts on other sectors such as infrastructure or democratic participation. The EC stressed the importance of such compliance for EU accession.
117. In light of the ongoing urgent situation, the Standing Committee asked for progress reports to be provided at the Spring Bureau in 2025, in which the government is asked to use the basis of the 13 points of [Recommendation No. 211 \(2021\)](#). It also proposed to hold a coordination meeting with the government of North Macedonia to discuss the implementation of the recommendation. The File remains open.

➤ **2016/04: Montenegro: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)55 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)75 - Complainant Report

**The Standing Committee:**

118. Thanked the authorities and the complainant for their presentations on the implementation of [Recommendation No. 201 \(2018\)](#).
119. Took note of the positive ongoing work and reiterated the request of the Bureau to the authorities to provide a timeline for the finalisation of the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the Skadar Lake National Park and the preparation of deriving spatial planning documents.
120. Welcomed the efforts for improving the enforcement of existing laws.
121. Encouraged the authorities to update their Emerald Network database in the light of the new data available and to submit it to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention. The meeting of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks hosted by Montenegro in 2025 could be a timely occasion for delivering updated data on the Emerald Network.
122. Took note of the information of the complainant that still little meaningful progress in the implementation of [Recommendation No. 201 \(2018\)](#) had been accomplished and that the revocation of the building permits in the State Location Study "Mihailovići" was subject to a political decision.
123. Announced that the file remains open and both parties were requested to provide updates for the Autumn Bureau meeting in 2025. Both parties should use the 12 points of [Recommendation No. 201 \(2018\)](#) as the basis for their reporting.

➤ **2016/05: Albania: Presumed negative impact of developments on the Vjosa river including hydro-power plant development and Vlora International Airport**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)13 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)14 - Complainant Report

**The Standing Committee:**

124. Extended its gratitude to the authorities and the complainant for their comprehensive presentations on the implementation of [Recommendation No. 219 \(2023\)](#).
125. Applauded the Albanian government for suspending work on the water supply project in the Himara municipality, following the guidance provided by IUCN expert, and including local communities in discussions and decision-making processes.
126. Expressed nevertheless its strong regret that the construction of the airport continued despite the clear provisions of [Recommendation No. 219 \(2023\)](#) and repeated calls from the Bureau to suspend construction until a new and sufficient Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure and the proper evaluation of environmental impacts have been conducted.
127. Expressed furthermore deep concern that the new law on protected areas may conflict with the principles and obligations enshrined in the Bern Convention, potentially facilitating violations of its provisions. The Committee urged reconsideration to ensure compliance with the Convention.
128. Regretted the decision of the Council of Ministers to authorise the additional activities in the protected landscapes and the removal of the zonation, as this will pose significant threats to biodiversity protection. As the decision came from the new law on protected areas, the Committee urged immediate reconsideration of this decision as well and requested the parties to report on the relevant court decisions.
129. With reference to the Bureau's decision from its September 2024 meeting, requested concrete data on measures to mitigate the environmental impacts of the ongoing airport construction and related developments. It urged the submission of specific, actionable mitigation plans addressing these concerns.
130. Requested an update on the management plan for the area. This update should include detailed information about the plan's contents and the measures to ensure its effective implementation to safeguard the environment.
131. Sought clarification on how the precautionary principles were applied to current and future development activities, with a focus on minimising environmental risks and ensuring long-term ecological sustainability.



132. Encouraged the authorities to actively engage with civil society and other relevant stakeholders to advance the implementation of [Recommendation No. 219 \(2023\)](#).
133. Encouraged the authorities to engage with and include civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the wildlife monitoring of the area.
134. Reaffirmed its commitment to offering continued support and expertise to all parties.
135. Announced that the file remained open and, due to the urgency of the matter, requested of both parties to provide updates for the Spring Bureau meeting in 2025. It encouraged the parties to use the 11 points of [Recommendation No. 219 \(2023\)](#) as the basis for their reporting.

➤ **2017/02: North Macedonia: Negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructures developments**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)09 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)10 - Complainant Report

**The Standing Committee:**

136. Thanked the representatives of the government and the complainant for their contributions but regretted that no reports had been provided by the government.
137. Was concerned about the continued non-transparency of legislative processes, the legalisation of illegal constructions, new illegal developments, and increased urbanisation of the site. It is especially worried by the development of an urban complex within the RAMSAR site Studenchiste Marsh and the start of construction, in April 2024, of a new hotel complex based on urban plans dating back to 2007 and carried out without a legally binding EIA.
138. Welcomed the information provided by the complainant regarding the Law on the proclamation of Lake Ohrid as a Monument of Nature, and the Law on the proclamation of Studenchiste Marsh as a Park of Nature. Indeed, following a petition filed by the complainant in August 2024, the relevant Assembly Commission decided to halt the process and align the laws with the Bern Convention and the OSA conducted in 2023. However, there has been no action since.
139. Noted as encouraging that some financial support had been allocated for projects monitoring habitats and species as well as the development of sustainable tourism.
140. Stressed the importance for national authorities to urgently implement the Recommendation and respect its international reporting obligations under the Bern Convention as well as to reinforce cooperation between the central government and municipal governments.
141. Due to the ongoing and worsening situation of some aspects, the Standing Committee asked for progress reports for the Spring Bureau in 2025. The government was asked to use [Recommendation No. 221 \(2023\)](#) as a basis for their reports. Furthermore, the term “alleged” was suppressed from the title of the case file. The File remains open.

➤ **2019/05: Türkiye: Habitat destruction in Mersin Anamur Beach – on the spot appraisal (OSA)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)31 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)06 - Complainant Report  
T-PVS/Inf (2024)13 – Report of the on-the-spot appraisal  
T-PVS(2024)15 – Draft Recommendation on Mersin Anamur Beach

**The Standing Committee:**

142. Thanked both parties for their reports and contribution to the on-the-spot appraisal (OSA) on 2-4 July 2024, the results of which were positively evaluated by the different stakeholders.
143. Regretted that some of the issues discussed at the OSA did not seem to evolve since and that some new negative developments occurred.
144. Encouraged cooperation of all relevant stakeholders in restoring and preserving the habitats of the three turtle species concerned: the Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and Nile soft-shelled turtles (*Trionyx triunguis*).
145. Thanked the independent consultant, Dr Alan Rees, for his involvement in the OSA and his report with conclusions, recommendations and a draft monitoring plan.

146. Unanimously adopted Recommendation No. 226 (2024) (T-PVS(2024)15) on Mersin Anamur Beach (Türkiye), available in Appendix XI.
147. Requested both parties to provide their update reports to the Bureau for its meeting in Spring 2025.

➤ **2020/09: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva River**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)07 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)21 - Complainant Report

**The Standing Committee:**

148. Thanked both parties for their reports.
149. Regretted that the construction of the HPP Ulog was finalised and the reservoir was filled. Invited the authorities to consider mitigation measures related to the construction and functioning of Ulog HPP.
150. Noted with concern and the construction of the Upper Horizons HPP scheme continued, as a priority project for the Republika Srpska authorities.
151. Acknowledged the rejected and pending lawsuits filed against construction permits issued for HPP Dabar and the pending case in relation to access to information related to it.
152. Reiterated the call of the 43rd Standing Committee for the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to respect and implement the [Recommendation No. 217 \(2022\)](#), including by cancelling concessions for the hydroelectric system Gornja Neretva, and halting other planned HPP projects such as the Upper Horizons project, until the valuable Gornja Neretva area has received an appropriate nature protection.
153. Appreciated the readiness of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to fulfil the obligations towards the Bern Convention and invited them to strengthen the cooperation between the relevant entities and with civil society.
154. Proposed to also hold a coordination meeting with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss the implementation of the [Recommendation No. 217 \(2022\)](#).
155. Announced that the file remains an open file and invited both parties to send progress reports to the Spring Bureau in 2025.

## **6.2. Possible Files**

➤ **2001/4 - Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)34 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)35 - Complainant Report

**The Standing Committee:**

156. Thanked the authorities of Bulgaria and the complainant “Save Kresna Gorge” coalition for their oral presentations, and for their written reports sent throughout the year.
157. Welcomed the information that the [Technical Workshop](#) which was called for by [Recommendation 212 \(2021\)](#) was held on 22-24 April 2024 in the town of Sandanski with a field visit to the Kresna Gorge. It noted that the workshop went well, with both parties demonstrating a constructive spirit, and that [joint conclusions](#) were approved by the participants in the workshop.
158. Took note of the agreed way forward reached between the Bulgarian authorities and the European Commission to make progress on the project without any delay and, in particular, to start the construction of the Eastern lane, going from Kulata to Sofia outside the gorge (as included in the G10.50 alternative). Following the principle of good faith and taking note of the consistent efforts of the Bulgarian authorities to align the Struma Motorway project with the recommendations of the Bern Convention, the Standing Committee recognised the call of the Bulgarian authorities on the need to balance the protection of species and habitats in the Kresna Gorge with vital socio-economic needs.
159. Took note of the position of the complainant that the construction of the Eastern lane can be considered as an important step to ease the pressure from traffic on species and habitats in the gorge and as a

prerequisite for the implementation of appropriate defragmentation and conservation measures on the existing road. It took note that the construction of the Eastern lane, going from Kulata to Sofia outside of the Kresna Gorge, as included in the Eastern G10.50 alternative, should start as soon as possible, after discussing the technical design of the bypass of Kresna town with the complainant with regard to the passing of the Vlahina River.

160. Noted that the Minister of Environment and Water issued, on 11 June 2024, an EIA/AA screening Decision No 5-PR/2024, which concluded that there was no need for a new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out for the modifications of the project, which, according to the authorities, was unlikely to have a significant negative impact on the environment and natural habitats, populations and habitats species subject to conservation in the protected site.
161. Recognised that the maintenance and adaptation of existing culverts and the road safety measures on the existing road through the Kresna Gorge are necessary to minimise mortality of protected species but also to ensure that there are no deadly traffic accidents. The Standing Committee took note of the information that there is a Contract signed for their implementation and supported the proposal that the Road Infrastructure Agency, the Ministry of Environment and Water and the complainant review the measures and, if necessary, adapt them before implementation.
162. Also took note of the complainant's concerns with regard to the construction of the Western lane from Sofia to Kulata. The Standing Committee urged the Bulgarian authorities to focus on finding technically feasible routes for this lane outside the Kresna Gorge. The Committee urged the Bulgarian Authorities to reformulate the current ToR (for identifying a complementing road to the Struma Motorway) to focus on how the second lane of the Motorway (from Sofia to Kulata) can be constructed (phased) next to the Eastern lane (Kulata-Sofia) with effective mitigation measures to avoid adverse impact on the integrity of the sites and leave the existing E79 and the bypass of Kresna town as a complementary road. The ToR should also include a competent environmental team to perform environmental studies in parallel with the technical design. The studies and future EIA procedure must be implemented as soon as possible and must not consider the existing road as the Western lane of the planned Struma Motorway from Sofia to Kulata. The construction of a western lane next to the eastern will further decrease the pressure inside the gorge.
163. Invited the parties to jointly elaborate a roadmap for the implementation of the project respecting the timelines under the TEN-T Regulation (by 2030), and the Bulgarian authorities to take a legally binding commitment to enact it.
164. Called on all parties, including the NGO complainants and the European Commission, to give their utmost support to the implementation of this decision.
165. Expected that the European Commission will continue to monitor the development of the project.
166. Noted that the file remained possible, and that both parties were invited to send progress reports to the Spring Bureau in 2025 with information on the implantation of the described way forward.

➤ **2020/4: Armenia: The Amulsar gold mine project and its impacts on Emerald Network sites**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)67 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)16 - Complainant Report

**The Standing Committee:**

167. Thanked both parties for their presentations.

**Regarding the Amulsar gold mine:**

168. Took note of the contradictory information provided by the authorities and the complainant regarding the operation of the gold mine. While the authorities stated that the works at the mine had been stopped in 2018, according to the complainant the commencement of operations of the mine had been announced for 2025.
169. Requested the authorities to ensure a new Environmental Impact Assessment, which considers all the species and habitats present in the area.



170. Looked forward to the outcomes of the study carried out by the Scientific Centre of Zoology and Hydroecology aimed to assess the recent biodiversity findings in the area of Amulsar.

Regarding the revision process of the Emerald Network in Armenia:

171. Reiterated its concern regarding the process to drastically reduce the territory of the Emerald Network in Armenia and asked the authorities to include the complainant in the consultation process.

172. Invited the authorities to swiftly revitalise the discussions concerning the Jermuk National Park within the frame of the "Biodiversity and Sustainable Local Development in Armenia" project funded by the KFW Development Bank.

173. Took note of the request of the complainant to mandate an on-the-spot appraisal, however due to ongoing processes decided to postpone the decision to 2025.

174. Announced that the File remained Possible, and both parties were invited to send progress reports to the Spring Bureau in 2025 with information on the two separate issues of the Amulsar gold mine, and the revision of the candidate Emerald Network sites in Armenia.

➤ **2022/03: Norway: Wolf culling policy**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)41 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)63 - Complainant Report

**The Standing Committee:**

175. Expressed strong concern with the extremely restricted population target in spite of the vulnerable status of the Scandinavian population of *Canis lupus*, and the species being listed as "critically endangered" (CR) on the Norwegian Red List of Species in 2021, due to the small number of animals and a very high inbreeding coefficient.

176. Stressed that considering lethal prevention measures a norm, on the grounds of „overriding public interests“, where alternative means are not exhausted, is contrary to the Bern Convention Article 9 regardless of the status of protection of the species, especially if practiced also within the wolf management zone as small as 5% of the national territory, where the presence of the species is meant to be prioritised.

177. Called upon the government of Norway to abstain from culling entire wolf packs and territory-marking pairs in the wolf zone, so as to allow the population to recover to a more satisfactory conservation status and ensure its long-term survival and viability, as well as its positive impact on the ecosystem as a whole.

178. Invited the government of Norway to prioritise proven, non-lethal measures of damage reduction and conflict mitigation, and to step up the promotion of long-term co-existence between humans and wolves based on the available best practice. This would contribute to meeting the goals and targets agreed upon in the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, and in the Vision and the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030.

179. Considering all the elements brought to its attention, elevated the status of the complaint to an **Open File** and invited both parties to send progress reports to the Spring Bureau in 2025.

➤ **2022/06: Serbia: Possible negative impact of mining activities in Bosilegrad and in the Homolje Mt region**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)22 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)23 - Complainant Report

**The Standing Committee:**

180. Thanked both parties for their reports and presentations.

181. Was concerned about the irregularities observed near both mines and their alleged impact on protected flora, fauna and the habitats around and downstream from the mines, in particular the water pollution and the illegal use of local water bodies, which require close and regular monitoring and an adequate assessment of the impact on species and habitats.

182. Called on the authorities to prevent SLAPPS, smear campaigns and guarantee a fair treatment for environmental defenders and further enhancing possibilities of public participation.

183. Called on the Government of the Republic of Serbia to pursue close cooperation with the Bulgarian authorities, in view of a high risk of transboundary heavy pollution of water. Expressed interest in the results of the cooperation in the framework of the Espoo Convention.
184. Urged the authorities to reject proposals for resuming and expanding mining activities in fragile natural environments and to adequately assess the already existing, as well as potential negative impact on protected species and habitats. Stressed that the Bern Convention Secretariat proposed to focus on minimising the negative impact of mining on biodiversity, aimed at sharing of expertise and providing assistance to the parties. Encouraged the authorities to engage in a possible event on this matter.
185. In view of the already stated negative impact and allegedly high risk of further severe, transboundary consequences of the mining, from exploration, to extraction, to processing activities, announced the complaint remains a possible file and requested both parties to provide their update reports to the Bureau for its meeting in Spring 2025.

➤ **2023/03: Switzerland: New wolf culling policy**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)68 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)70 - Complainant Report

**The Standing Committee:**

186. Thanked both parties for their reports and presentations.
187. Expressed strong concern about the new wolf culling policy posing a risk of a large scale, culling of – theoretically up to 65% of the population, the minimum threshold being currently fixed at 12 packs, as well as its concern for the pack whose territory contains the Swiss National Park.
188. Reminded the authorities that, if the decision of the Standing Committee on downgrading the protection status of the wolf comes into force, following the 3-month period after its adoption, the provisions of the Bern Convention still apply and need to be observed, notably Art 1(1), Art. 2, Art. 7 and Art. 9. The wolf populations need to be maintained at, or brought to, a level which corresponds to ecological and scientific requirements in accordance with Article 2. The populations need to be kept out of danger and measures to be taken shall include the temporary or local prohibition of exploitation, as appropriate, in order to restore satisfactory population levels. Exceptions are only possible under the specific circumstances mentioned in Art.9 (1).
189. Stressed that sound knowledge, based on the best available scientific findings, should be considered in devising wolf management policy. The current minimum population threshold of 12 wolf packs is far below the threshold recommended for the Alpine region.
190. In terms of managing the wolf population, recognised the distinct, complementary roles of the federal government, responsible for the compliance with the provisions of the Bern Convention, and cantonal authorities, in charge of implementing the wolf management policy. Stressed that the consistency of the overall approach had to be safeguarded.
191. Strongly encouraged further investment into livestock protection measures, as a proven method of limiting depredation, and efforts in promoting coexistence with the wolf, leading to an increase in the social acceptance of the species.
192. In view of the facts presented by both the complainant and the authorities, and regardless of the species protection status being “protected” or “strictly protected”, elevated the complaint to an **Open File** and invited both parties to send their progress reports for consideration by the Spring Bureau in 2025.

**6.3. Complaint on stand-by**

➤ **2021/07: Serbia: Alleged threat to fauna species and protected sites due to the proposed construction of a lithium mine in the Jadar River Valley**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files(2024)57 - Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)54 - Complainant Report

**The Standing Committee:**

193. Thanked the authorities and the complainants for their reports and presentations.

194. Noted that, as confirmed by the EIA request submitted by the company, several protected species of flora and fauna, including some listed in the Bern Convention Annexes, as well as water quality and soil may be heavily impacted by the mining project. Concluded that no protected areas are in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project location.
195. Acknowledged swift developments related to the preparatory process leading to creation of the underground mine of the jadarite ore, in the context of increasing importance of lithium for achieving climate neutrality and energy sufficiency.
196. Noted the existing legal framework safeguarding the assessment of the environmental impact of such projects and requested information on the results of the environmental assessments in progress and further developments in relation to the project, including estimated risk of a spill, contingency plan with envisaged prevention and mitigation measures, also bearing in mind the potential transboundary impact of the extraction and processing of the lithium ore.
197. Expressed concern with the limited scope of public engagement in the decision-making process and strong social tensions around the project and encouraged the authorities to engage with researchers, activists and civil society at large.
198. Stressed that the Bern Convention Secretariat proposed to focus on minimising the negative impact of mining on biodiversity, aimed at sharing of expertise and providing assistance to the parties. Encouraged the authorities to engage in a possible event on this matter.
199. Decided to maintain the case-file on stand-by and requested both parties to submit their update reports for the Bureau meeting in June/July.

#### **6.4. Follow-up of previous complaints and Recommendations**

- **Recommendation No. 169 (2013) on the Rhone streber (Zingel asper) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland) in the framework of a case-file on stand-by 2011/05: France / Switzerland**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files(2024)82 – French Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)79f – Swiss Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)76f – Complainant Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)77f – Complainant Report

#### **The Standing Committee:**

200. Welcomed the progress presented in the implementation of [Recommendation No. 169 \(2013\)](#) and thanked the authorities and NGOs for their commitment. It specifically welcomed the prolongation of the Swiss Action plan on the Doubs until 2030. However, it noted with great concern that to date, the measures implemented have not enabled the Apron population to recover.
201. Called on the authorities to pursue their actions and follow up on previous recommendations, in particular:
  - The Swiss authorities to organise the planned agricultural seminar without further delay;
  - The French and Swiss authorities to increase their collaboration, further advance in the research on the key threats responsible for the current conservation status of the Rhone Streber and continue to work on suitable environmental conditions, including in relation to the negative impacts of agriculture and forestry, for the Apron and
  - to convene the binational “Water Quality” group in 2025 and continue its work with the effective participation of NGOs.
202. Took note of the complainants’ proposal to set up an expert group meeting on the genus Zingel, which encompassed several threatened species in Europe with a similar ecology, to exchange on the reasons for decline and look for possible ways to improve their situation.

203. Considered that the case-file should remain on stand-by with a continuation of the current two-year reporting cycle and invited the Contracting Parties and the complainants to report on the results of their efforts at the 46th Standing Committee meeting in 2026.

## **PART V – COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMME OF WORK 2025**

### **7. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION WITH OTHER MEAs AND ORGANISATIONS**

#### **The Standing Committee:**

204. Took note of the information provided by the Secretariat and expressed its appreciation of the continued international cooperation developed throughout the year with other MEAs and organisations such as the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), Birdlife international, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the European Commission, Infrastructure and Ecology Network Europe (IENE), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Ramsar Convention, the United Nations' Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation World Heritage Centre (UNESCO WHC) and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT). It thanked more particularly the European Environment Agency (EEA) which offered to cover the resource needs for the transition from Reportnet 2 to Reportnet 3 of the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) and Emerald data submission which saved the Bern Convention budget tens of thousands of euros.

### **8. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2025-2026**

Relevant documents: T-PVS(2024)09– Draft Programme of Activities and budget for 2025-2026

#### **The Standing Committee:**

205. Welcomed that the increase of the allocation of the Ordinary Budget adopted in 2024 had been reconducted by the Committee of Ministers in 2025.

206. Was informed of the two-year programme of activities ([T-PVS\(2024\)09](#)) and took note that over the next biennium the European Diploma for Protected Areas would celebrate its 60th anniversary; that the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the conservation status of species and habitats would mobilise significant resources; that strengthened communication with youth organisations and the design of cooperation activities aimed to support Contracting Parties to resolve or prevent case-files had been planned.

207. Revised the provisional calendar of meetings (Appendix XII) to maximise efficiency and help the Secretariat prioritise human and financial resources.

208. Invited Parties interested in hosting Groups of Experts in 2025 to inform the Secretariat.

209. Invited the Secretariat to consider adding the objectives and expected outcomes of the meetings when preparing the calendar of the meetings in the future.

### **9. STATES TO BE INVITED AS OBSERVERS TO THE 45<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

#### **The Standing Committee:**

210. Decided unanimously to invite the following States to attend its 45<sup>th</sup> meeting: San Marino, Egypt, the Holy See and Jordan.

## **PART VI – OTHER ITEMS**

### **10. ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND BUREAU MEMBERS**

#### **The Standing Committee:**

211. In accordance with Article 18(e) of the Rules of Procedure, elected:

➤ Mr Carl Amirgulashvili (Georgia) as Chair;

➤ Mr Claude Origer (Luxembourg) as Vice-Chair;

➤ Mr Burak Tatar (Türkiye) as Bureau member;

➤ Mr Charles-Henri de Barsac (France) as Bureau member, pending a formal nomination is received by the Secretariat by 31 January 2025. It unanimously agreed to deviate exceptionally for its Rules of Procedures to fulfill all the positions of the Bureau and enable its optimal functioning.

212. Acknowledged, according to Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure, the automatic nomination of the previous Chair, Ms Merike Linnamägi (Estonia) as a Bureau member.

### **11. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 45<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

#### **The Standing Committee:**

213. Agreed to hold its next meeting during the week of 8 December 2025 in Strasbourg (exact format of the meeting to be decided).

### **12. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**

#### **The Standing Committee:**

214. Adopted document T-PVS(2024)Misc.

### **13. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

#### **The Standing Committee:**

215. Closed the meeting.

## **Adopted texts**

**Appendix I:** Agenda of the 44<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee to the Bern Convention

**Appendix II:** Terms of reference of the Working Group on exploring sustainable financing options for the Bern Convention

**Appendix III:** Terms of Reference of the Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention

**Appendix IV:** Recommendation No. 222 (2024) of the Standing Committee on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons

**Appendix V:** Recommendation No. 223 (2024) of the Standing Committee on sturgeon population monitoring

**Appendix VI:** Recommendation No. 224 (2024) of the Standing Committee on *ex situ* conservation measures for sturgeons

**Appendix VII:** Recommendation No. 225 (2024) of the Standing Committee on the further clarification of the obligations of Contracting Parties regarding the conservation of Emerald Network sites

**Appendix VIII:** Targets for the Emerald Network for the period to 2030

**Appendix IX:** Updated lists of candidate and adopted Emerald Network sites

**Appendix X:** List of Invasive Alien Species considered for the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012)

**Appendix XI:** Recommendation No. 226 (2024) of the Standing Committee on Mersin Anamur Beach

**Appendix XII:** Provisional calendar of meetings

**Appendix I**  
**- Agenda -**  
**- T-PVS/Agenda(2024)13 -**

**PART I – OPENING**

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 2. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DELEGATIONS AND FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

- 2.1. Follow up to the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe on 16-17 May 2023 in Reykjavík, Iceland**

*2.1.1. Creation of the Department on the Reykjavík process and the environment / Directorate of social rights, health and environment*

*2.1.2. Involvement of the Bern Convention in the Reykjavík process*

*2.1.3. Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME)*

*[GME(2024)1 – Terms of Reference of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME)]*  
*[GME(2024)AR1 – Abridged report of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the GME]*

- 3. FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION**

- 3.1. Financing of the Bern Convention**

*[T-PVS(2024)13 – Report of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ad hoc Drafting group of an Amending Protocol]*  
*[T-PVS(2024)10 - Fourth draft Protocol amending the Bern Convention]*  
*[T-PVS/Inf(2024)19- The Bern Convention financial situation]*

- 3.2. Voluntary contributions received in 2024: state of play**

*[T-PVS/Inf(2024)08Rev - Table of the voluntary contributions received]*

- 3.3. Vision and Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030**

*[T-PVS(2024)02 – Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan]*  
*[T-PVS(2024)08 – Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Working Group overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan]*  
*[T-PVS(2024)12 - Operationalising the Strategic Plan's indicators – next steps]*  
*[T-PVS(2024)14 – Compilation of the national voluntary updates on the Strategic Plan implementation]*

**PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS**

- 4. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION**

- 4.1. Biennial reports 2021-2022 concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8**

- 4.2. Proposal for amendment: Downlisting of the wolf (Canis lupus) from Appendix II to Appendix III of the Convention**

*[T-PVS/Inf(2024)15 – Proposal by the European Union to amend Appendices II and III of the Bern Convention of the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats by moving the wolf (Canis lupus) from Appendix II to Appendix III]*  
*[The Bern Convention and the protection of the wolf - FAQ]*

**PART III – MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS**

- 5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS**

- 5.1. Conservation of Birds & IKB**

- 5.2. Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck**

**5.3. Conservation of Large Carnivores****5.4. Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of Sturgeons**

*[T-PVS(2024)07 - Draft recommendation on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons / on sturgeon population monitoring / on ex situ conservation measures for sturgeons]*

*[T-PVS(2024)16 - Technical guideline on habitat assessment; T-PVS(2024)17 - Technical guideline on population monitoring; T-PVS(2024)18 - Technical guideline on ex-situ conservation measures]*

*[T-PVS(2024)05 – Report of the second meeting of the National Focal Points for the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons]*

**5.5. Amphibians and Reptiles and Invasive Alien Species (IAS)****5.6. Conservation of Habitats****5.6.1. Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest**

*[T-PVS/PA(2024)09 - meeting report of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks]*

## a) Legal framework of the Emerald Network

*[T-PVS/PA(2024)11 - Draft recommendation on the further clarification of the obligations of Contracting Parties regarding the conservation of Emerald Network sites]*

## b) Targets of the post-2020 Emerald Network Strategic Workplan

*[T-PVS/PA(2024)05 - Revisited targets for the Emerald Network for the period to 2030]*

## c) Proposed revision of the Emerald Network Standard Data Form (SDF)

*[T-PVS/PA(2024)20 – Implications of and options for revising the Emerald Network Standard Data Form]*

## d) Draft updated list of adopted Emerald Network sites and draft updated list of candidate Emerald Network sites

*[T-PVS/PA(2024)18 – Draft updated list of Emerald Network candidate sites]*

*[T-PVS/PA(2024)19 – Draft updated list of Emerald Network adopted sites]*

**5.6.2. European Diploma for Protected Area**

*[T-PVS/DE(2024)12 – Report of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas]*

**5.7. Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the conservation status of species and habitats**

*[T-PVS/PA(2024)10 – Report of the 5th meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting]*

*[T-PVS/PA(2024)17 – Report of the 6th meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting]*

*[T-PVS/PA(2024)14 – Reporting format]*

*[T-PVS/PA(2024)15 rev Checklists of Species and Habitats]*

*[T-PVS/PA(2024)12 rev – List of Invasive Alien Species]*

*[T-PVS/PA(2024)13 – Reporting guidelines – Explanatory notes]*

*[T-PVS/PA(2024)16 – Reporting guidelines – Concepts and definitions]*

**PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS****6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS****6.1. Open Files**

- 1986/08: Greece: Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of *Caretta caretta* in Laganas bay, Zakynthos

*[T-PVS/Files(2024)50– Government Report]*

*[T-PVS/Files(2024)51– Complainant Report]*

*[T-PVS/Files(2024)80– Archelon NGO Report]*

- 1995/06: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula



[T-PVS/Files(2024)XX– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)48– Complainant Report]

- 2010/05: Greece: Threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias

[T-PVS/Files(2024)46– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)47– Complainant Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)81– Archelon NGO Report]

- 2012/09: Türkiye: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs

[T-PVS/Files(2024)69– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)49– Complainant Report]

- 2013/01: North Macedonia: Hydro power development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park

[T-PVS/Files(2024)62– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)61– Complainant Report]

- 2016/04: Montenegro: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site

[T-PVS/Files(2024)55– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)75– Complainant Report]

- 2016/05: Albania: Presumed negative impact of developments on the Vjosa river including hydro-power plant development and Vlora International Airport

[T-PVS/Files(2024)13– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)14– Complainant Report]

- 2017/02: North Macedonia: Alleged negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructure developments

[T-PVS/Files(2024)09– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)10– Complainant Report]

- 2019/05: Türkiye: Habitat destruction in Mersin Anamur Beach - *on-the-spot appraisal (OSA)*

[T-PVS/Files(2024)31– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)06– Complainant Report]  
[T-PVS/Inf(2024)13– Report of the on-the-spot appraisal]  
[T-PVS(2024)15 - Draft Recommendation on the Mersin Anamur Beach]

- 2020/09: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva River

[T-PVS/Files(2024)07– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)21– Complainant Report]

## 6.2. Possible Files

- 2001/04: Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge

[T-PVS/Files(2024)34– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)35– Complainant Report]

- 2020/04: Armenia: The Amulsar gold mine project and its impacts on Emerald Network sites

[T-PVS/Files(2024)67– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)16– Complainant Report]

- 2022/03: Norway: Wolf culling policy

[T-PVS/Files(2024)41– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)63– Complainant Report]

- 2022/06: Serbia: Possible negative impact of mining activities in Bosilegrad and in the Homolje Mt region

[T-PVS/Files(2024)22– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)23– Complainant Report]

- 2023/03: Switzerland: New wolf culling policy

*[T-PVS/Files(2024)68– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)70– Complainant Report]*

### **6.3. Complaint on stand-by**

- 2021/07: Serbia: Alleged threat to fauna species and protected sites due to the proposed construction of a lithium mine in the Jadar River Valley

*[T-PVS/Files(2024)57– Government Report]  
[T-PVS/Files(2024)54– Complainant Report]*

### **6.4. Follow-up of previous complaints and Recommendations**

- Recommendation No. 169 (2013) on the Rhone streber (Zingel asper) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland) in the framework of a case-file on stand-by 2011/05: France / Switzerland

*T-PVS/Files(2024)79 – French Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)76 – Swiss Government Report  
T-PVS/Files(2024)77 - Complainant Report*

## **PART V – COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMME OF WORK 2025**

### **7. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION WITH OTHER MEAs AND ORGANISATIONS**

### **8. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2025-2026**

*[T-PVS(2024)09 – Draft Programme of activities and budget 2025 - 2026]*

### **9. STATES TO BE INVITED AS OBSERVERS TO THE 45<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

## **PART VI – OTHER ITEMS**

### **10. ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND BUREAU MEMBERS**

### **11. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 45<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

### **12. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**

### **13. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

**DRAFT PLAN FOR DISCUSSION OF THE AGENDA<sup>1</sup>**

<b>MORNINGS 9.00 am - 12.30 pm (CET)</b>	<b>AFTERNOONS 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm (CET)</b>
<b>Monday 2 December 2024</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. OPENING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA</b></li> <li><b>2. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DELEGATIONS AND FROM THE SECRETARIAT</b></li> <li><b>2.1 Follow up to the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe on 16-17 May 2023 in Reykjavík, Iceland</b></li> <li><b>3. FINANCING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERN CONVENTION</b></li> <li><b>3.1 Financing of the Bern Convention</b></li> <li><b>3.2. Voluntary contributions received in 2024: state of play</b></li> <li><b>3.3 Vision and Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention</b></li> <li><b>4. MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION</b></li> <li><b>4.1. Biennial reports 2021/2022 concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8</b></li> </ol>
<b>Tuesday 3 December 2024</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4.2. Proposal for amendment: Downlisting of the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) from Appendix II to Appendix III of the Convention</b></li> <li><b>5. MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS</b></li> <li><b>5.1. Conservation of Birds &amp; IKB</b></li> <li><b>5.2. Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck</b></li> <li><b>5.3. Conservation of Large Carnivores</b></li> <li><b>5.4. Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of Sturgeons</b></li> <li><b>5.5. Amphibians and Reptiles and Invasive Alien Species (IAS)</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>5.6. Conservation of Habitats</b></li> <li><i>5.6.1 Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest</i></li> <li><i>5.6.2 European Diploma for Protected Areas</i></li> <li><b>5.7. Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the conservation status of species and habitats</b></li> <li><b>6. SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS</b></li> <li><b>6.1. Open Files</b></li> <li>➤ 2019/05: Türkiye: Habitat destruction in Mersin Anamur Beach - OSA</li> <li>➤ 2012/09: Türkiye: Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> Time slots are indicative only- certain agenda items may be reshuffled during the meeting when necessary.

<b>MORNINGS 9.00 am - 12.30 pm (CET)</b>	<b>AFTERNOONS 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm (CET)</b>
<b>Wednesday 4 December 2024</b>	
<p><b>6.1 Open Files (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2013/10: North Macedonia: Hydro power development within the territory of the Mavrovo National Park</li> <li>➤ 2017/02: North Macedonia: Alleged negative impacts to Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park candidate Emerald Sites due to infrastructure developments</li> <li>➤ 2016/04: Montenegro: Development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake National Park and candidate Emerald site</li> <li>➤ 1986/08: Greece: Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of Caretta Caretta in Laganas bay, Zakynthos</li> <li>➤ 2010/05: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias</li> <li>➤ 1995/06: Cyprus: Akamas peninsula</li> </ul>	<p><b>6.1 Open Files (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2016/05: Albania: Presumed negative impact of developments on the Vjosa river including hydro-power plant development and Vlora International Airport</li> <li>➤ 2020/09: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Possible negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Neretva river</li> </ul> <p><b>6.2. Possible files</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2020/04: Armenia: The Amulsar gold mine project and its impacts on Emerald Network sites</li> <li>➤ 2022/06: Serbia: Possible negative impact of mining activities in Bosilegrad and in the Homolje Mt region</li> </ul> <p><b>6.3. Complaint on stand-by</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2021/07: Serbia: Alleged threat to fauna species and protected sites due to the proposed construction of a lithium mine in the Jadar River Valley</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 5 December 2024</b>	
<p><b>6.2. Possible files (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2022/03: Norway: Wolf culling policy</li> <li>➤ 2023/03: Switzerland: New wolf culling policy</li> <li>➤ 2001/04: Bulgaria: Motorway through the Kresna Gorge</li> </ul> <p><b>6.4. Follow-up of previous complaints and Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Recommendation No. 169 (2013) on the Rhone streber (Zingel asper) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland) in the framework of a case-file on stand-by 2011/5: France / Switzerland</li> </ul> <p><b>7. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION WITH OTHER MEAS AND ORGANISATIONS</b></p> <p><b>8. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2024</b></p>	<i>Possible continuation of unfinished business</i>
<b>Friday 6 December 2024</b>	
<p><b>9. STATES TO BE INVITED AS OBSERVERS TO THE 45<sup>TH</sup> MEETING</b></p> <p><b>10. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR, AND BUREAU MEMBERS</b></p> <p><b>11. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 45<sup>TH</sup> MEETING</b></p> <p><b>12. ADOPTION OF THE MAIN DECISIONS OF THE MEETING</b></p> <p><b>13. CLOSING OF THE MEETING</b></p>	

## **Appendix II**

### **Terms of reference of the Working Group on exploring sustainable financing options for the Bern Convention**

#### **I. BACKGROUND**

In 2019, the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention adopted [Resolution No. 9 \(2019\)](#) on the financing of the Bern Convention and on initiating the establishment of a new system for obligatory financial contributions by Parties setting up an Intersessional Working Group on Finances entrusted with the drafting of proposals for amending the Convention and for a Partial Agreement, in order to ensure viable and predictable financial support to the Convention work and activities

After three years of operation, the Intersessional Working Group on Finances assessed the feasibility of establishing an Enlarged Partial Agreement, prepared several financial scenarios in relation to the Enlarged Partial Agreement, drafted an amendment to the Bern Convention in view of Article 16 of the Convention, prepared a financial simulation tool in relation to the draft amendment and reviewed other institutional, legal options.

On 19 October 2022, the Committee of Ministers ([CM/Del/Dec\(2022\)1446/9.1](#)) entrusted the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention to elaborate a protocol amending the Bern Convention as it appeared to be the best available option to secure long-term funding of the Convention. To achieve this task, the Standing Committee decided to set up an *Ad-hoc* Drafting Group of the Amending Protocol which replaced the Intersessional Working Group on Finances.

At its session in May 2024, following the Reykjavík Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (2023), the Committee of Ministers launched the elaboration of a Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment. As part of the exploration of sustainable financing options for related activities and conventions, particularly the Bern Convention, the upcoming session of the Committee of Ministers in May 2025 will consider the establishment of a dedicated Council of Europe Environment Trust Fund (CETF).

#### **II. SCOPE**

The Working Group on exploring sustainable financing options for the Bern Convention is entrusted with the finalisation of the draft protocol amending the Bern Convention and creating a mechanism of compulsory financial contributions and its explanatory report. Under its mandate, the Working Group is also tasked to consider any decisions that may be taken at the May 2025 session of the Committee of Ministers on the establishment of a dedicated Council of Europe Environment Trust Fund (CETF), and in particular how the Trust Fund could respond to the financial needs of the Bern Convention and to propose the most appropriate solutions regarding financing options for the Bern Convention for consideration by the September meeting of the Bureau of the Convention and the Standing Committee at its 45<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Working Group will replace the *Ad-hoc* Drafting Group of the Amending Protocol.

#### **III. COMPOSITION**

The Working Group on exploring sustainable financing options for the Bern Convention will comprise relevant representatives of Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention and may invite relevant third parties as deemed necessary.

The Working Group will select one Chair from amongst its members.

#### **IV. WORKING METHODS**

The working language will be English.

The Working Group will meet at least once, before the meeting of the Bureau in September 2025.

The working group shall operate by online means.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee will review and evaluate the work of the Working Group at the Bureau's meetings.

The Working Group will report to the 45<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee to the Bern Committee.

In co-operation with the Chair, the Secretariat will coordinate and assist with the organisation and preparation of the agenda for the meetings of the Working Group and any other support activities deemed necessary.

## **Appendix III**

### **Terms of Reference of the Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention**

#### **I. BACKGROUND**

At its 44<sup>th</sup> meeting in December 2024, the Bern Convention Standing Committee discussed the possibility of devising a dedicated evidence-based mechanism and criteria for granting or changing the protection status of a species in order to ensure that the process is objective, transparent and supports the Standing Committee in fulfilling its role. The Standing Committee also considered that it could be time to review Recommendation No. 56 (1997) concerning guidelines to be taken into account while making proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention and while adopting amendments.

Advancing towards that goal, bearing in mind Recommendation No. 56 (1997), the Standing Committee decided to set up a Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention, particularly to develop criteria for amending appendices I, II & III to the Bern Convention.

#### **II. SCOPE**

Considering Bern Convention Standing Committee Recommendation No. 56 (1997) concerning guidelines to be taken into account while making proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention and while adopting amendments, and the need expressed by the Bern Convention Standing Committee for a dedicated evidenced-based mechanism and criteria for granting or changing the protection status of a species, the Working Group is requested to:

- Make recommendations to the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention on setting up, as appropriate, a mechanism to evaluate proposals for granting or modifying the protection status of fauna and flora species in the framework of the Bern Convention and, if deemed appropriate, to advise on other evidence-based decisions, bearing in mind the framework of the Bern Convention and the practice in other international treaties related to nature conservation.
- Advise the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention on any changes to the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee deemed necessary to implement such a mechanism.

#### **III. COMPOSITION**

The Working Group will comprise representatives of Contracting Parties and Observers to the Bern Convention and may comprise other relevant third parties as deemed necessary.

The Working Group will select one Chair from amongst its members.

#### **IV. WORKING METHODS**

The members of the Working Group will provide input through meetings, conference calls, written contributions to draft papers, reports, and other means as appropriate.

The working language will be English.

The Working Group will determine its own meeting frequency. The Working Group shall operate by online means.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee will review and evaluate the work of the Working Group at the Bureau's meetings through the year.

The Working Group will report to the 45<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee to the Bern Convention.

In co-operation with the Chair, the Secretariat will coordinate and assist with the organisation and preparation of the agenda for the meetings of the Working Group and any other support activities deemed necessary.



## Appendix IV

### **Recommendation No. 222 (2024) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2024, on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons**

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Recalling that Article 3 of the Convention requires Parties to take the necessary steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4.1 of the Convention requires Parties to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 41 (1993) on the protection of freshwater fish;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 116 (2005) on the conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 127 (2007) of the Standing Committee on the conservation and restoration of the European sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*);

Recalling the report on the status of implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin, prepared by DSTF [document [T-PVS/Inf\(2017\)22](#)] and presented at its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting in December 2017;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 199 (2018) on the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons [document [T-PVS\(2018\)6](#)];

Desirous to support Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons;

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

Make use to the extent possible of the technical guidelines on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons supporting the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of sturgeons and all activities in relation to the conservation of sturgeons;

Raise awareness among competent authorities and relevant stakeholders about the guidelines on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons and encourage them to put them into practice;

Refer to the guidelines on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons as criteria to develop and fund project proposals related to their conservation;

Recommends that the Secretariat promotes and gives appropriate visibility to the [guidelines on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons](#).

## Appendix V

### **Recommendation No. 223 (2024) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2024, on sturgeon population monitoring**

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Recalling that Article 3 of the Convention requires Parties to take the necessary steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4.1 of the Convention requires Parties to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 41 (1993) on the protection of freshwater fish;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 116 (2005) on the conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 127 (2007) of the Standing Committee on the conservation and restoration of the European sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*);

Recalling the report on the status of implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin, prepared by DSTF [document [T-PVS/Inf\(2017\)22](#)] and presented at its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting in December 2017;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 199 (2018) on the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons [document [T-PVS\(2018\)6](#)];

Desirous to support Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons;

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

Make use to the extent possible of the technical guidelines on sturgeon population monitoring supporting the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of sturgeons and all activities in relation to the conservation of sturgeons;

Raise awareness among competent authorities and relevant stakeholders about the guidelines on sturgeon population monitoring and encourage them to put them into practice;

Refer to the guidelines on sturgeon population monitoring as criteria to develop and fund project proposals related to their conservation;

Recommends that the Secretariat promotes and gives appropriate visibility to the [guidelines on the monitoring of the population of sturgeon](#).

## Appendix VI

### **Recommendation No. 224 (2024) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2024 on *ex situ* conservation measures for sturgeons**

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Recalling that Article 3 of the Convention requires Parties to take the necessary steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4.1 of the Convention requires Parties to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 41 (1993) on the protection of freshwater fish;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 116 (2005) on the conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 127 (2007) of the Standing Committee on the conservation and restoration of the European sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*);

Recalling the report on the status of implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin, prepared by DSTF [document [T-PVS/Inf\(2017\)22](#)] and presented at its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting in December 2017;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 199 (2018) on the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons [document [T-PVS\(2018\)6](#)];

Desirous to support Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons;

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

Make use to the extent possible of the technical guidelines on *ex situ* conservation measures for sturgeons supporting the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of sturgeons and all activities in relation to the conservation of sturgeons;

Raise awareness among competent authorities and relevant stakeholders about the guidelines on *ex situ* conservation measures for sturgeons and encourage them to put them into practice;

Refer to the guidelines on *ex situ* conservation measures for sturgeons as criteria to develop and fund project proposals related to their conservation;

Recommends that the Secretariat promotes and gives appropriate visibility to the [guidelines on \*ex situ\* conservation measures for sturgeons](#).

## Appendix VII

### **Recommendation No. 225 (2024) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2024, on the further clarification of the obligations of Contracting Parties regarding the conservation of Emerald Network sites**

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Recalling Article 2 of the Convention, which requires each Contracting Party to “take requisite measures to maintain the population of wild flora and fauna at, or adapt it to, a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements and the needs of sub-species, varieties or forms at risk locally”;

Recalling Article 4 of the Convention, which requires each Contracting Party to “take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats”;

Recalling Resolutions No. 1 (1989), No. 3 (1996), No. 4 (1996), No. 5 (1998), No. 6 (1998) and No. 8 (2012), on habitat conservation and the Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (Emerald Network);

Recalling in particular the common interpretation of Article 4 of the Convention adopted by the Standing Committee in Resolution No. 1 (1989), which confirms that Article 4 lays down an obligation requiring Contracting Parties to take those measures “which are able” and “which are required” to “ensure the conservation” of “the habitats of those species which have been identified by the Standing Committee” as “requiring specific habitat conservation measures” and of “those natural habitats which have been identified by the Standing Committee” as “requiring specific conservation measures”;

Recalling that the Standing Committee has subsequently, in Resolutions No. 4 (1996) and No. 6 (1998), identified these species and natural habitats requiring specific conservation measures, and that Article 4 therefore applies to the Areas of Special Conservation Interest that Contracting Parties have identified, and continue to identify, for these species and natural habitats as part of the Emerald Network;

Recalling also Recommendations No. 14 (1989), No. 15 (1989), No. 16 (1989), No. 25 (1991), No. 157 (2011, revised 2019), No. 172 (2014), No. 207 (2019) and No. 208 (2019), on habitat conservation and the Emerald Network, as well as other Recommendations and guidance documents relating to these issues;

Stressing the importance of clarity concerning the nature and scope of the framework that Contracting Parties have established in Article 4 and in relevant resolutions and recommendations with regard to the conservation of habitats, in particular the Areas of Special Conservation Interest that Contracting Parties have identified as part of the Emerald Network on their territories;

Noting the analysis conducted by a legal expert in 2020 of the obligations of Contracting Parties regarding the conservation of candidate and adopted Emerald Network sites (T-PVS/PA(2020)7);

Noting also the subsequent exploration of possible next steps regarding the legal framework of the Emerald Network (T-PVS/PA(2021)01), and the outcomes of several rounds of consultations of Contracting Parties and the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks on how to follow up on the conclusions of the legal analysis (T-PVS/PA(2021)02 and T-PVS/PA(2021)09), and on challenges faced when implementing the Emerald Network (T-PVS/PA(2024)03);

Recalling that the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, at its 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting held 17-18 April 2024 in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, called for a Standing Committee recommendation reiterating concisely, in accessible language, the binding and non-binding obligations of Contracting parties concerning the conservation of Emerald Network sites, as well as identifying requirements that may require development of further guidance;

- Recommends that Contracting Parties, the Bureau and the Secretariat take note of the following overview of legally binding and non-binding commitments of Contracting Parties regarding the conservation of the candidate and adopted Emerald Network sites on their territories:

### *Commitments that are legally binding*

The following commitments are legally binding. They involve requirements which must be met by Contracting Parties in order to comply with Article 4 of the Convention.

- Under Article 4, each Contracting Party has an obligation to “take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats”.
- This obligation entails that for each candidate and adopted site of the Emerald Network, the authorities concerned shall take those **measures** which are **necessary and able to effectively ensure the conservation of the habitats** of species and the natural habitats for which the site has been selected.<sup>2</sup>
- Authorities are required to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures, to maintain and, where appropriate, restore or improve the **abiotic and biotic features which form the habitats** concerned, including, where appropriate, the control of activities which may indirectly result in the deterioration of such habitats.<sup>3</sup>
- Article 9 of the Convention sets out the conditions under which **exceptions** may be made from this obligation.

### *Measures to support compliance with Article 4*

What it takes to meet the obligations in Article 4 will depend on the circumstances of each case. However, *inter alia*, the following can support compliance in the context of specific sites:

- **site protection regime**: applying a suitable site protection regime under national law;<sup>4</sup>
- **site management measures**: taking the management measures necessary to preserve or restore the habitats involved and involving various national, regional and/or local stakeholders in site management;<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Resolution No. 1 (1989), par. 2(a)-(b).

<sup>3</sup> Resolution No. 1 (1989), par. 2(c).

<sup>4</sup> Recommendation No. 16 (1989), par. 3(1) and 5; Resolution No. 8 (2012), par. 2(1).

<sup>5</sup> Resolution No. 1 (1989), par. 2(c); Recommendation No. 16 (1989), par. 3(d); Recommendation No. 157 (2011/2019),

- **management resources:** the agencies who are responsible for the designation and/or conservation of areas have sufficient staff, training, equipment and resources (including financial resources) to enable them properly to manage, conserve and survey such areas;<sup>6</sup>
- **monitoring:** providing for an adequate degree of monitoring of these habitats and of threats posed to them;<sup>7</sup>
- **anticipating and responding to specific threats:**<sup>8</sup>
  - **screening:** actively identifying potentially harmful projects or activities;
  - **timely and comprehensive impact assessment:** obtaining sufficient clarity regarding the potential consequences of any such project or activity for the habitat(s) involved, *before* taking a decision regarding its approval;
  - **authorising only activities compatible with conservation objectives:** refusing authorization of projects and activities that are incompatible with conservation objectives;

### ***Other relevant commitments***

Contracting Parties are encouraged to comply with the following commitments. They involve actions which have been recommended to Contracting Parties by the Standing Committee. Taking these actions is considered conducive to achieving the aims of the Convention, and the effectiveness of the Emerald Network, but does not appear strictly necessary in order to comply with Article 4 of the Convention.

- Reporting every six years on the conservation status of species and habitats in Emerald Network sites;<sup>9</sup>
  - Informing the Secretariat of important changes likely to affect negatively in a substantial way the ecological character of such sites.<sup>10</sup>
- Recommends the development of additional guidance in order to further clarify and/or concretize the following aspects of the legal framework concerning Emerald Network sites, and instructs the Secretariat to work with Contracting Parties and the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks towards this end:
- The nature of the result to be achieved under Article 4 of the Convention;
  - The nature of required site management measures;
  - The screening, prior assessment and authorization of potentially harmful projects;
  - The requirements regarding monitoring and reporting;
  - The scope for exceptions under Article 9 of the Convention.

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par. 1; Resolution No. 8 (2012), par. 2(3) and 2(4).

<sup>6</sup> Recommendation No. 16, par 3(b).

<sup>7</sup> Recommendation No. 16 (1989), par. 2, 4(e) and 3(c); Resolution No. 5 (1998), par. 4(1); Resolution No. 8 (2012), par. 3; Recommendation No. 208 (2019).

<sup>8</sup> Resolution No. 1 (1989), par. 2; Recommendation No. 16 (1989), par. 3(d); Recommendation No. 25 (1991), Appendix, par. II (1)(b)-(e); Resolution No. 8 (2012), par. 2(1); Recommendation No. 157 (2011/2019), par. 1; Recommendation No. 208 (2019).

<sup>9</sup> Resolution No. 8 (2012), par. 4(1)-(2).

<sup>10</sup> Resolution No. 5 (1998), Art. 4(2).

### Appendix VIII

#### Targets for the Emerald Network for the period to 2030

Number of indicator	Indicator description	2030 minimum target value
1	Number of new or updated Emerald Network databases followed by biogeographical evaluations	2
2	Sufficiency Index A proportion of “sufficient” conclusions versus all conclusions	Group 0 (no biogeographical evaluation as of 2024): 25% Group 1 (1 biogeographical evaluation as of 2024): 35% Group 2 (2 biogeographical evaluations as of 2024): 50% Group 3 (3 biogeographical evaluations as of 2024): 60%
3	All Emerald Network sites which went through the biogeographical evaluation process until 2028 should be adopted by the Standing Committee by 2030.	Qualitative: yes
4	A proportion of Emerald Network sites with site management plans	40%

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## **Appendix IX**

**- Updated lists of candidate and adopted Emerald Network sites –**

**- [T-PVS/PA\(2024\)18](#) –**

**- [T-PVS/PA\(2024\)19](#) -**



## Appendix X

### List of Invasive Alien Species to be considered within the frame of the Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012)

N	Species	Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Habitat
1.	<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i> Medik.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Malvales	Malvaceae	terrestrial
2.	<i>Acer negundo</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Sapindales	Sapindaceae	terrestrial
3.	<i>Aedes albopictus</i> (Skuse, 1894)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Culicidae	terrestrial
4.	<i>Aix galericulata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Anseriformes	Anatidae	terrestrial freshwater
5.	<i>Amaranthus albus</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Amaranthaceae	terrestrial
6.	<i>Amaranthus blitoides</i> S.Watson	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Amaranthaceae	terrestrial
7.	<i>Amaranthus deflexus</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Amaranthaceae	terrestrial
8.	<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Amaranthaceae	terrestrial
9.	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
10.	<i>Ambrosia polystachya</i> DC.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
11.	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i> (Lesueur, 1819)	Animalia	Chordata		Siluriformes	Ictaluridae	freshwater brackish
12.	<i>Amelanchier ×lamarckii</i> F.G.Schroed.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Rosales	Rosaceae	terrestrial
13.	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Fabales	Fabaceae	terrestrial
14.	<i>Amphibalanus improvisus</i> (Darwin, 1854)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Maxillopoda	Sessilia	Balanidae	marine
15.	<i>Anguillicola crassus</i> Kuwahara, Niimi & Itagaki, 1974	Animalia	Nematoda	Chromadorea	Rhabditida	Anguillicolidae	freshwater
16.	<i>Aphanomyces astaci</i> Schikora	Chromista	Oomycota	Peronosporae	Saprolegniales	Leptolegniaceae	freshwater
17.	<i>Arcuatula senhousia</i> (W.H.Benson, 1842)	Animalia	Mollusca	Bivalvia	Mytilida	Mytilidae	marine
18.	<i>Artemisia verlotiorum</i> Lamotte	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
19.	<i>Asparagopsis armata</i> Harv.	Plantae	Rhodophyta	Florideophyceae	Bonnemaisoniales	Bonnemaisoniaceae	marine
20.	<i>Austrominius modestus</i> (Darwin, 1854)	Animalia	Arthropoda			Elmniidae	marine
21.	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i> Lam.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Polypodiopsida	Salvinales	Salviniaceae	freshwater
22.	<i>Bidens frondosa</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
23.	<i>Bidens subalternans</i> DC.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
24.	<i>Bonnemaisonia hamifera</i> Hariot	Plantae	Rhodophyta	Florideophyceae	Bonnemaisoniales	Bonnemaisoniaceae	marine
25.	<i>Botrylloides violaceus</i> Oka, 1927	Animalia	Chordata	Asciacea	Stolidobranchia	Styelidae	marine
26.	<i>Branta canadensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Anseriformes	Anatidae	terrestrial freshwater
27.	<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i> (L.) L'Hér. ex Vent.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Rosales	Moraceae	terrestrial
28.	<i>Buddleja davidii</i> Franch.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Lamiales	Scrophulariaceae	terrestrial

N	Species	Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Habitat
29.	<i>Campylopus introflexus</i> (Hedw.) Brid.	Plantae	Bryophyta	Bryopsida	Dicranales	Leucobryaceae	brackish marine
30.	<i>Caprella mutica</i> Schurin, 1935	Animalia	Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Amphipoda	Caprellidae	marine
31.	<i>Carassius auratus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Animalia	Chordata		Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	freshwater brackish
32.	<i>Carpobrotus acinaciformis</i> (L.) L.Bolus	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Aizoaceae	terrestrial
33.	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> (L.) N.E.Br.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Aizoaceae	terrestrial
34.	<i>Caulerpa racemosa</i> (Forssk.) J.Agardh	Plantae	Chlorophyta	Ulvophyceae	Bryopsidales	Caulerpaceae	marine
35.	<i>Cervus nippon</i> Temminck, 1838	Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Artiodactyla	Cervidae	terrestrial
36.	<i>Codium fragile</i> (Suringar) Har.	Plantae	Chlorophyta	Ulvophyceae	Bryopsidales	Codiaceae	marine
37.	<i>Commelina communis</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Commelinales	Commelinaceae	terrestrial
38.	<i>Corbicula fluminalis</i> (O.F.Müller, 1774)	Animalia	Mollusca	Bivalvia	Venerida	Cyrenidae	freshwater
39.	<i>Corbicula fluminea</i> (O.F.Müller, 1774)	Animalia	Mollusca	Bivalvia	Venerida	Cyrenidae	freshwater
40.	<i>Coregonus peled</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	Animalia	Chordata		Salmoniformes	Salmonidae	freshwater
41.	<i>Corella eumyota</i> Traustedt, 1882	Animalia	Chordata	Ascidiacea	Phlebobranchia	Corellidae	marine
42.	<i>Cornus sericea</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Cornales	Cornaceae	terrestrial
43.	<i>Corythucha arcuata</i> (Say, 1832)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Tingidae	terrestrial
44.	<i>Corythucha ciliata</i> (Say, 1832)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Tingidae	terrestrial
45.	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i> Decne.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Rosales	Rosaceae	terrestrial
46.	<i>Crassula helmsii</i> (Kirk) Cockayne	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Saxifragales	Crassulaceae	terrestrial freshwater
47.	<i>Crepidula fornicata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Animalia	Mollusca	Gastropoda	Littorinimorpha	Calyptraeidae	marine
48.	<i>Cuscuta campestris</i> Yunck.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Solanales	Convolvulaceae	host
49.	<i>Cyclachaena xanthiifolia</i> (Nutt.) Fresen.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
50.	<i>Cydalima perspectalis</i> (Walker, 1859)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Crambidae	terrestrial
51.	<i>Dasysiphonia japonica</i> (Yendo) H.-S.Kim	Plantae	Rhodophyta	Florideophyceae	Ceramiales	Dasyaceae	marine
52.	<i>Datura stramonium</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Solanales	Solanaceae	terrestrial
53.	<i>Diabrotica virgifera</i> LeConte, 1868	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Crysomelidae	terrestrial
54.	<i>Didemnum vexillum</i> Kott, 2002	Animalia	Chordata	Ascidiacea	Aplousobranchia	Didemnidae	marine
55.	<i>Dysphania ambrosioides</i> (L.) Mosyakin & Clemants	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Amaranthaceae	terrestrial
56.	<i>Echinocystis lobata</i> (Michx.) Torr. & A.Gray	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Cucurbitales	Cucurbitaceae	terrestrial
57.	<i>Eleusine indica</i> (L.) Gaertn.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Poales	Poaceae	terrestrial
58.	<i>Eleusine tristachya</i> (Lam.) Lam.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Poales	Poaceae	terrestrial
59.	<i>Elodea canadensis</i> Michx.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Alismatales	Hydrocharitaceae	freshwater

N	Species	Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Habitat
60.	<i>Elodea densa</i> (Planch.) Casp.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Alismatales	Hydrocharitaceae	freshwater
61.	<i>Erasmoneura vulnerata</i> (Fitch, 1851)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Cicadellidae	terrestrial
62.	<i>Erigeron annuus</i> (L.) Pers.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
63.	<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
64.	<i>Erigeron canadensis</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
65.	<i>Erigeron floribundus</i> (Kunth) Sch.Bip.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
66.	<i>Erigeron sumatrensis</i> Retz.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
67.	<i>Euphorbia maculata</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Malpighiales	Euphorbiaceae	terrestrial
68.	<i>Euphorbia prostrata</i> Aiton	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Malpighiales	Euphorbiaceae	terrestrial
69.	<i>Frankliniella occidentalis</i> (Pergande, 1895)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Thysanoptera	Thripidae	host
70.	<i>Galinsoga parviflora</i> Cav.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
71.	<i>Galinsoga quadriradiata</i> Ruiz & Pav.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
72.	<i>Gammarus tigrinus</i> Sexton, 1939	Animalia	Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Amphipoda	Gammaridae	marine
73.	<i>Grateloupia turuturu</i> Yamada	Plantae	Rhodophyta	Florideophyceae	Halymeniales	Halymeniaceae	marine
74.	<i>Grindelia squarrosa</i> (Pursh) Dunal	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
75.	<i>Halyomorpha halys</i> (Stål, 1855)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Pentatomidae	host
76.	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i> (Pallas, 1773)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Coccinellidae	terrestrial
77.	<i>Helianthus pauciflorus</i> Nutt.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
78.	<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
79.	<i>Helianthus</i> × <i>laetiflorus</i> Pers.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
80.	<i>Hemigrapsus sanguineus</i> (De Haan, 1835)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda	Varunidae	marine
81.	<i>Hemigrapsus takanoi</i> Asakura & Watanabe, 2005	Animalia	Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda	Varunidae	marine
82.	<i>Hyphantria cunea</i> (Drury, 1773)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Erebidae	terrestrial
83.	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i> (Rafinesque, 1818)	Animalia	Chordata		Siluriformes	Ictaluridae	freshwater
84.	<i>Impatiens balfourii</i> Hook.fil.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Ericales	Balsaminaceae	terrestrial
85.	<i>Impatiens parviflora</i> DC.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Ericales	Balsaminaceae	terrestrial
86.	<i>Juncus tenuis</i> Willd.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Poales	Juncaceae	terrestrial
87.	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> Laxm.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Sapindales	Sapindaceae	terrestrial
88.	<i>Lepidium virginicum</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Brassicales	Brassicaceae	terrestrial
89.	<i>Linepithema humile</i> (Mayr, 1868)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Formicidae	terrestrial
90.	<i>Lupinus nootkatensis</i> Donn ex Sims	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Fabales	Fabaceae	terrestrial

N	Species	Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Habitat
91.	<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i> Lindl.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Fabales	Fabaceae	terrestrial
92.	<i>Magallana gigas</i> (Thunberg, 1793)	Animalia	Mollusca	Bivalvia	Ostreida	Ostreidae	brackish marine
93.	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i> DC.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
94.	<i>Mnemiopsis leidyi</i> A.Agassiz, 1865	Animalia	Ctenophora	Tentaculata	Lobata	Bolinopsidae	brackish marine
95.	<i>Mustela vison</i> Schreber, 1777	Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Mustelidae	terrestrial freshwater
96.	<i>Mytilopsis leucophaeata</i> (Conrad, 1831)	Animalia	Mollusca	Bivalvia	Myida	Dreissenidae	marine
97.	<i>Oenothera biennis</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Myrtales	Onagraceae	terrestrial
98.	<i>Oenothera glazioviana</i> Micheli	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Myrtales	Onagraceae	terrestrial
99.	<i>Oenothera ×fallax</i> Renner	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Myrtales	Onagraceae	terrestrial
100.	<i>Oncorhynchus gorbusha</i> (Walbaum, 1792)	Animalia	Chordata		Salmoniformes	Salmonidae	freshwater marine
101.	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> (Walbaum, 1792)	Animalia	Chordata		Salmoniformes	Salmonidae	freshwater marine
102.	<i>Ophiostoma novo-ulmi</i> Brasier	Fungi	Ascomycota	Sordariomycetes	Microascales	Ceratocystidaceae	host
103.	<i>Opuntia humifusa</i> (Raf.) Raf.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Cactaceae	terrestrial
104.	<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> (L.) Mill.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Cactaceae	terrestrial
105.	<i>Opuntia humifusa</i> (Raf.) Raf.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Cactaceae	terrestrial
106.	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Oxalidales	Oxalidaceae	terrestrial
107.	<i>Oxalis stricta</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Oxalidales	Oxalidaceae	terrestrial
108.	<i>Panicum capillare</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Poales	Poaceae	terrestrial
109.	<i>Panicum dichotomiflorum</i> Michx.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Poales	Poaceae	terrestrial
110.	<i>Parthenocissus inserta</i> (A.Kern.) Fritsch	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Vitales	Vitaceae	terrestrial
111.	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> (L.) Planch.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Vitales	Vitaceae	terrestrial
112.	<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> Poir.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Poales	Poaceae	terrestrial
113.	<i>Paspalum distichum</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Poales	Poaceae	terrestrial
114.	<i>Periplaneta americana</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Blattodea	Blattidae	terrestrial
115.	<i>Physella acuta</i> (Draparnaud, 1805)	Animalia	Mollusca	Gastropoda		Physidae	freshwater
116.	<i>Phytolacca americana</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Phytolaccaceae	terrestrial
117.	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i> (J.E.Gray, 1843)	Animalia	Mollusca	Gastropoda	Littorinimorpha	Tateidae	freshwater
118.	<i>Prunus serotina</i> Ehrh.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Rosales	Rosaceae	terrestrial
119.	<i>Pseudosasa japonica</i> (Siebold & Zucc. ex Steud.) Makino ex Nakai	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Poales	Poaceae	terrestrial
120.	<i>Rapana venosa</i> (Valenciennes, 1846)	Animalia	Mollusca	Gastropoda	Neogastropoda	Muricidae	marine
121.	<i>Reynoutria ×bohemica</i> Chrtek & Chrtková	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Polygonaceae	terrestrial

N	Species	Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Habitat
122.	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> Houtt.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Polygonaceae	terrestrial
123.	<i>Reynoutria sachalinensis</i> (F.Schmidt) Nakai	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Polygonaceae	terrestrial
124.	<i>Rhithropanopeus harrisi</i> (Gould, 1841)	Animalia	Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Decapoda	Panopeidae	marine
125.	<i>Rhus typhina</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Sapindales	Anacardiaceae	terrestrial
126.	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Fabales	Fabaceae	terrestrial
127.	<i>Rosa rugosa</i> Thunb.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Rosales	Rosaceae	terrestrial
128.	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
129.	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> (Mitchill, 1814)	Animalia	Chordata		Salmoniformes	Salmonidae	freshwater
130.	<i>Sargassum muticum</i> (Yendo) Fensholt	Chromista	Ochrophyta	Phaeophyceae	Fucales	Sargassaceae	marine
131.	<i>Schizoporella japonica</i> Ortmann, 1890	Animalia	Bryozoa	Gymnolaemata	Cheilostomatida	Schizoporellidae	marine
132.	<i>Senecio inaequidens</i> DC.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
133.	<i>Sicyos angulatus</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Cucurbitales	Cucurbitaceae	terrestrial
134.	<i>Sigesbeckia orientalis</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
135.	<i>Sinanodonta woodiana</i> (I.Lea, 1834)	Animalia	Mollusca	Bivalvia	Unionida	Unionidae	freshwater
136.	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i> Cav.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Solanales	Solanaceae	terrestrial
137.	<i>Solidago canadensis</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
138.	<i>Solidago gigantea</i> Aiton	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
139.	<i>Sorghum halepense</i> (L.) Pers.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Poales	Poaceae	terrestrial
140.	<i>Sporobolus junceus</i> (P.Beauv.) Kunth	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Poales	Poaceae	terrestrial
141.	<i>Sporobolus vaginiflorus</i> (Torr. ex A.Gray) Alph.Wood	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Poales	Poaceae	terrestrial
142.	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> (L.) K.Koch	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Dipsacales	Caprifoliaceae	terrestrial
143.	<i>Symphyotrichum lanceolatum</i> (Willd.) G.L.Nesom	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
144.	<i>Symphyotrichum novi-belgii</i> (L.) G.L.Nesom	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
145.	<i>Symphyotrichum squamatum</i> (Spreng.) G.L.Nesom	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
146.	<i>Tricellaria inopinata</i> d'Hondt & Occhipinti Ambrogi, 1985	Animalia	Bryozoa	Gymnolaemata	Cheilostomatida	Candidae	marine
147.	<i>Ulmus pumila</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Rosales	Ulmaceae	terrestrial
148.	<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i> (Harv.) Suringar	Chromista	Ochrophyta	Phaeophyceae	Laminariales	Alariaceae	marine
149.	<i>Veronica persica</i> Poir.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Lamiales	Plantaginaceae	terrestrial
150.	<i>Xanthium orientale</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial
151.	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i> L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Asterales	Asteraceae	terrestrial

## Appendix XI

### **Recommendation No. 226 (2024) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2024, on Mersin Anamur Beach**

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Recalling that Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that each Contracting Parties shall take steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild fauna species, especially those listed in Appendix II to the Convention;

Recalling that Article 4, paragraph 2, further stipulates that Contracting Parties, in their planning and development policies, shall have regard to the conservation requirements of the areas protected under the preceding paragraph, so as to avoid or minimise as far as possible any deterioration of such areas;

Recalling that Article 6 of the Convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the special protection of the wild fauna species specified in Appendix II to the Convention, particularly by prohibiting the deliberate damage to or destruction of breeding sites;

Noting that *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas* and *Trionyx triunguis* are strictly protected turtle species listed in Appendix II to the Convention;

Recalling the Guidance Tool on conservation of sea turtle nesting sites ([T-PVS\(2023\)30](#)), providing guidance to Contracting Parties in the Mediterranean;

Recognising the high natural value of the Anamur Mersin Beach as an important nesting area for *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas*, and possibly *Trionyx triunguis*, the species observed in the area, reportedly inhabiting rivers near to the mouth to the sea and nesting on sandy coastal beaches;

Noting that the future of the populations of the above-mentioned three species of turtles in the Mediterranean are largely dependent on the maintenance of conservation activities, including those in Anamur Mersin;

Recalling the [Resolution \(78\) 22](#) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on threatened amphibians and reptiles in Europe;

Recalling the following recommendations of the Standing Committee:

- [No. 7 \(1987\)](#) on the protection of marine turtles and their habitat;
- [No. 8 \(1987\)](#) on the protection of marine turtles in Dalyan and other important areas in Türkiye;
- [No. 12 \(1988\)](#) concerning the protection of important turtle nesting beaches in Türkiye;
- No. 13 (1988) concerning measures for the protection of critical biotopes of endangered amphibians and reptiles;
- [No. 24 \(1991\)](#) on the protection of some beaches in Türkiye of particular importance to marine turtles;
- [No. 54 \(1996\)](#) on the conservation of *Caretta caretta* at Patara;
- [No. 66 \(1998\)](#) on the conservation status of some nesting beaches for marine turtles in Türkiye.

Recalling Turkish national and regional legislation aiming to protect habitats and species;

Recognising the efforts of the Government of Türkiye to protect the nesting beaches for marine turtles;

Taking note of the report of the on-the-spot appraisal carried out by an independent expert on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 (document [T-PVS/Inf\(2024\)13](#));

Recommends to the Government of Türkiye, in cooperation with local and regional authorities when relevant, to:

1. Remedy Stage 1 and 2 design issues, which mainly relate to poor lighting choices and light control. Consider erecting a fence along the beach edge to deter people from entering the beach at night.
2. Review the remaining Stage 2 and Stage 3 development plans to ensure they are necessary and are compatible with preservation of successful, undisturbed turtle nesting.
3. Enforce existing legislation by removal of illegal development, structures and impactful lighting from all areas of beach but especially the area of bungalows and restaurant on beach section 2 that may act as a catalyst for similar such developments away from the urban centre.
4. Increase number of signs that have information on sea turtles and the dos and don'ts for behaviour on the nesting beach at beach entrances. Create new signs to attach to each protective nest cage so that each nest has key information associated with it.
5. Improve turtle monitoring and protection capacity through training and increasing the number of people involved in daily surveys. Collect all relevant data indicated in Guidance Tool, starting as soon as possible by recording the location of each turtle nest using GPS to support scientific analyses and interpretation of the status of turtles and their habitats.
6. Design a hatchling management plan to be prepared for occurrences of hatchling disorientation caused by artificial lighting and respond promptly and strongly to adjust, revise or eliminate problematic lighting.
7. Undertake surveys for presence of Nile soft shelled turtles at all historically known sites along Anamur beach and commission ecological study for feasibility of restoring sites where presence remains, and nesting was previously reported.
8. Create a turtle protection network composed of authorities, NGOs, local stakeholders and concerned individuals that regularly meet to discuss issues and their solutions.
9. Create a turtle monitoring group composed of authorities, NGOs, local stakeholders and concerned individuals to better monitor the turtle nesting activity. Investigate the potential for bringing in academic and voluntary teams to contribute to the monitoring. Given that Anamur beach potentially hosts one of the top five loggerhead turtle nesting areas in the Mediterranean accurate assessment of activity is strongly warranted.

**Annexe XII****PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2025**

	Activities of low priority
	Activities of high priority

Meeting / Réunion		Tentative Date <i>Date provisoire</i>	Venue <i>Lieu</i>
1.	Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species back-to-back with the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles	1.5 day in February/March	online
2.	<i>1<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Bureau</i>	3 days in March, tbd	Strasbourg
3.	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention	End of March	online
4.	3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Working Group overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan back-to-back with the 7 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting (back-to-back with a training course on reporting for non-EU Contracting Parties (tbc))	8 April	tbd
5.	Joint meeting with the CMS MIKT on IKB	March/April, tbd	tbd
6.	Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds	March/April, tbd	tbd
7.	Meeting of Group of Specialists on EDPA	20 May	Granada
8.	60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EDPA	21-22 May	Granada
9.	Group of Experts on Large Carnivores	May, date tbd	tbd
10.	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Bureau</i>	2 days in June, tbd	online
11.	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group on exploring sustainable financing options for the Bern Convention	1 day late June	online
12.	Expert Meeting on the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck	Half day late June	online
13.	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Bureau</i>	3 days in September, tbd	Strasbourg
14.	<i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on the conservation of marine turtles	September	online
15.	2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention	September	online
16.	Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks	7-8 October	Montenegro
17.	4 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan	23 October	online
18.	Workshop on minimising the negative impact of mining on biodiversity	2 days, October/November tbd	tbd
19.	8 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting back - to-back with a training course on reporting for non-EU Contracting Parties	4-5 November	Strasbourg or Paris
20.	<i>45<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee</i>	Week starting on 8 December	Strasbourg