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Revisited targets for the Emerald Network for the period to 2030

*Document prepared by
Otars Opermanis and Marc Roekaerts*

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1. Introduction

The first Emerald Network workplan (often called calendar) that covered the period 2011-2020 was developed and approved by the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention in 2010. In this period there was an overall progress in the development of the Emerald Network, in particular recognising 3,260 Emerald Network sites, representing on average 14% of the national territory of participating Contracting Parties.

However, the 2011-2020 workplan did not contain any numeric targets. In 2020¹, the evaluation of the implementation of the calendar revealed that out of 41 activities listed only 35% were considered as completed, 20% as ongoing and 45% as outstanding. The overall goal to be achieved by 2020 was defined as “the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest is fully operational to guarantee the long-term survival of all species and habitats of European Interest including appropriate management, monitoring and reporting tools, compatible with Natura 2000”. It is evident that this ultimate goal has not been achieved while good progress was attained in several directions, for example, the setting-up of the bio-geographical assessment process, dataflows and expanding the Emerald Network coverage.

The same evaluation document included also a proposal of workplan for the decade to 2030 with associated performance indicators and numeric targets.

2. Previous proposal of targets for the period to 2030

Numeric targets and indicators for 2030 were proposed in parallel with the work on developing the Emerald Network monitoring framework². This resulted in a simple and transparent approach that all proposed targets were closely linked to indicators that were also key elements of the Emerald Network Barometer³.

Activities of the workplan should be designed in order to reach concrete targets, and in 2020 two approaches in setting the Emerald Network targets to 2030 were proposed:

- optimistic, or ambitious, corresponding to the EU commitments in the new Convention on Biological Diversity’s Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and thus to set a similar ambition for the Emerald Network;
- cautious, or realistic, based on experience and observations of progress so far from the Emerald and Natura 2000 networks.

Optimistic and realistic targets had been proposed for each of the key Emerald Network performance indicators representing each of the three Emerald Network constitution phases, and for the final cut-off year in 2030, as well as for the 2025 milestone which had been considered as a mid-term evaluation point (Table 1).

Proposed targets generated a lot of discussion in the Group of Experts on Ecological Networks in October 2020 as well in the Convention’s Standing Committee in December 2020. There were diverging views and in the end there was no concrete conclusion. Many countries doubted if the European Union’s

¹ pa08erev_2010_Emerald_Calendar2020_final

² [T-PVS/PA\(2020\)2 \(coe.int\)](#)

³ [Emerald Network Barometer - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats \(coe.int\)](#)

experience in building the Natura 2000 network (so-called realistic scenario, Table 1) could be considered also for the Emerald Network because of the different legal status and the different general level of scientific knowledge, experience in planning and implementing conservation measures. As regards to the more ambitious scenario, countries felt that more information should be collected about the GBF and EU's plans to reach the 30% level of land protected and understand better the possible role of the Emerald Network in reaching this target.

In December 2020, the Standing Committee mandated the Secretariat to further develop the workplan in light of the Convention on Biological Diversity's global targets and the EU interpretative guidance related to the targets set in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. In the discussion it was suggested by a coalition of observers and supported by the EU and its member States that Contracting Parties that are in the Phase II should finalise that Phase and reach target 2 and 3 of the Strategic Workplan by 2025, and finalise Phase III (target 4) by 2030. Further, it was suggested that Parties that have not yet started any Phase, to fulfil Phase II of the Strategic Workplan by 2030 at the latest.

It can be commented, however, that due to the iterative character of the process, it is very difficult to anticipate the completion of the phases of the Emerald Network constitution process. Also, that would mean in practice to complete the Emerald Network for many countries by 2030 which was is very ambitious plan.

Table 1. Emerald Network targets proposed in the 2020 report of the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, October 2020. In the version presented to the Standing Committee, December 2020, the proposed values had been removed, but in this report they are maintained in order to keep a record of previous thinking.

Milestones	Phase I		Phase II				Phase III	
	1. National coverage (all site types) (%)		2. Sufficiency index (%)		3. National coverage (adopted sites) (%)		4. Proportion of adopted sites with management plans (%)	
	OPTIMISTIC	REALISTIC	OPTIMISTIC	REALISTIC	OPTIMISTIC	REALISTIC	OPTIMISTIC	REALISTIC
Baseline (2020)	14.8	14.8	21.7	21.7	4.7	4.7	13.5	13.5
Mid-term target (2025)	22.4	15.9	60.9	53.3	17.2	10.6	56.7	27.1
Final target (2030)	30	17	100	84.8*	30	17	100	40.7**

*Average sufficiency index in countries implementing Natura 2000 in 2016 (20 years after the start of the biogeographical process). In this respect, 2030 would be approximatively 20 years after starting the biogeographical process for the Emerald Network. Source: Natura 2000 sufficiency database, end-2016. ** Percentage of sites with management plans in Natura 2000 countries in 2016 (20 years after starting the biogeographical process). Source: Natura 2000 database, end-2016.

As a result, the development of the 2021-2030 workplan was postponed until the adoption of the Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention for the period to 2030. The Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention for the period to 2030, developed in 2022⁴ states that the coverage of natural ecosystems and habitats by the Emerald Network needs to meet the sufficiency targets set for 2030 (Target 1.2) and all sites included in the Emerald Network must be effectively managed and subject to formal protection (Target 1.3).

But in this period a number of issues were clarified regarding the contribution of the Emerald Network to the GBF's 30% land conservation target with protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

⁴ <https://rm.coe.int/tpvs21e-2022-strategic-plan-8th-draft/1680a8bea8>

3. The Emerald Network role in GBF’s 30% target

To assess the possible contribution of the Emerald Network to the 30% global target we looked at the developments in the European Union and Natura 2000 network. After closer examination it became obvious that the direct attribution of GBF’s target to the Emerald Network appears to be hardly achievable and there are several reasons in favour not to use GBF’s target for measuring the progress of the Emerald Network:

- 1. There are 2 targets established in the context of CBD’s Global Biodiversity Framework Targets⁵ (land waters and seas 30% and strict protection 10%) but none of them by nature can be attributed to the Emerald Network (or Natura 2000). 30% is supposed to include not only traditional protected areas, such as Emerald Network sites, but also areas covered by Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs⁶). By definition, not all OECMs are classical protected areas with associated lists of species and habitats that are subject to protection in each site (as is the case with Emerald Network sites). The 10% target is supposed to cover only protected areas with strict protection regime, and which constitute only a part of the Emerald Network (Figure 1).

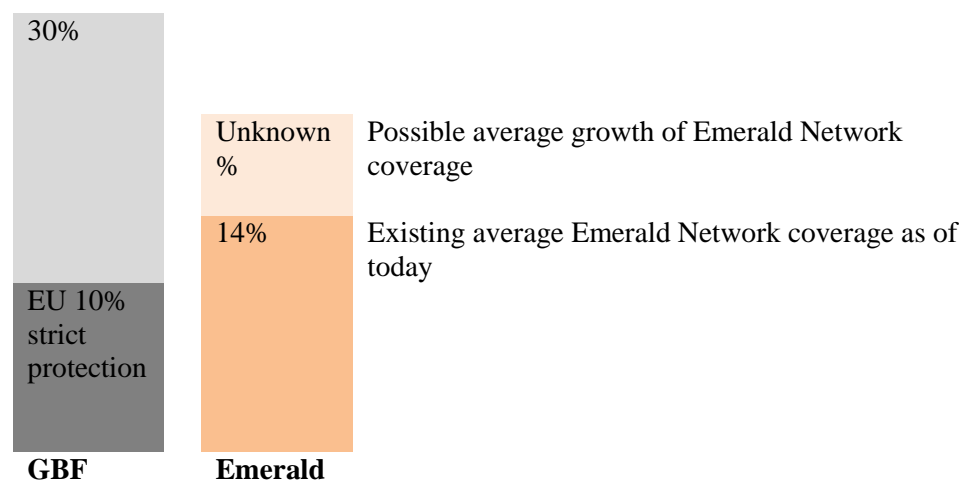


Figure 1. Emerald Network targets in comparison with CBD’s global targets (illustrative purposes only).

- 2. GBF targets are in principle based on defined national coverages of protected areas (in %) that countries must achieve. The primary target of the Emerald and Natura 2000 networks is to achieve the network sufficiency for all species and habitats that are subject to site designation. The network coverage (%) for the Emerald Network can be viewed only as an informative indicator showing comparative progress within the countries or between countries (and regions) as the sufficiency rate most likely will correlate with the national coverage in most situations.
- 3. In the EU, in order to work towards the 30% target, a special process has been established with specific principles, reporting software, data submission and evaluation process (country pledges; bio-geographical seminars; EU Biodiversity Platform⁷). Nothing of this is in place for the Bern Convention. Also, for the EU it is easier to build the OECM network on the top of Natura 2000

⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/3>

⁶ According to CBD, an OECM is defined as geographically defined area other than a Protected Area which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.

⁷ [Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/trends/2024/01/register-of-commission-expert-groups-and-other-similar-entities)

because it is more complete in terms of sufficiency; the rate of the latter is much lower for the Emerald Network.

In conclusion, the Bern Convention should develop its own targets for the Emerald Network for the period to 2030. Of course, they should and will also contribute to the GBF's global targets as core areas for biodiversity, but the 30% target definitely goes beyond the scope and purpose of the Emerald Network.

4. Emerald Network developments from December 2020 to present day

To further reflect on possible targets for the Emerald Network to 2030 it is important also consider the developments since 2020. Table 2 shows the official events that have been organised to initiate the Emerald Network assessment process (IS, LI) or to follow-up on previous developments (GE, Southeast European countries).

Yet it is important to note that in order to perform a bio-geographical assessment and come to sufficiency discussions at the meeting, the pre-requisite is the submission of Emerald Network databases. Only this activity at the initiative of Contracting Parties may trigger the start of the evaluation cycle, as the databases inform about changes in a number and delineation of Emerald Network sites, presence and status of species and habitats, presence of site management plans. Unfortunately, during these three years (2021-2023) only 6 countries have submitted new Emerald Network databases, namely GE, IS, LI, NO, UA and UK.

Table 2. Emerald Network bio-geographical assessment events since 2020.

Year	Bio-geographical region(s)	Countries	Meeting type	Remarks
2021	ALP-Cau, STE, BLS	GE	Tele-conference	Sufficiency
2022	CON, PAN (ALP)	RS	Tele-conference	Only Reference List
2022	ALP, CON, MED, PAN	AL, BA, ME, MK, XK	Tele-conference	Only Reference List
2022	ARC	IS	Hybrid	Sufficiency
2022	ALP	LI	Hybrid	Sufficiency

One additional special project was carried out in Belarus to review the current sufficiency situation (by analysing previous conclusions) and prepare a new database version. Similar activities were carried out in the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan within the frame of the EU4ENVIRONMENT project⁸. In 2022, the European Environment Agency funded a special activity to re-vitalise the Emerald Network bio-geographical process in the Southeast European region (Table 2). However, to date none of these activities resulted in the submission of a new Emerald Network database from the concerned countries.

In conclusion, countries activity for developing the Emerald Network in 2021-2023 has been rather minimal, possibly due to different reasons (COVID-19 pandemic, turbulent geopolitical situation, etc.)

5. New proposal of targets to 2030

5.1. Principles

A number of principles have been considered in order to revise the Emerald Network targets and develop the proposal outlined below. They derive from the facts and observations presented above together with analyses of the current Emerald Network status and some practical considerations.

- Previously general targets set for the 2011-2020 period, as well as 2030 targets proposed to countries in 2020, were apparently **over optimistic** and represented a wrong estimate of the capacities of a majority of countries;

⁸ <https://www.eu4environment.org/>

- The current proposal aims to be **realistic** so that there is a reasonable chance to achieve the targets set;
- The targets also need to be aligned with the capacities of **all range** of Contracting Parties: those which are much advanced in establishing the Emerald Network and those who have just entered the process;
- Targets should correspond to the key indicators considered and regularly updated in the Emerald Network Barometer⁹ (see Table 1), but among those, the main focus should be on the **Sufficiency Index** (SI);
- The sufficiency Index is the value that more precisely indicates how far countries have proceeded in the establishment of the Emerald Network, and how much still has to be done. The overall aim is to achieve a SI of 100% - i.e. to ensure adequate protection **of all species and habitats** (SI reads as a percentage of species and habitats that have sufficient/adequate site protection). To achieve a SI of 100%, countries need also to reach a certain level of national coverage for the Emerald Network, but it is more difficult to predict this value in advance, therefore this should be regarded as an informative (secondary) indicator reflecting the country's effort to protect its territory. A certain level of national coverage (%) as such does not automatically confirm that sites are adequate and sufficient for all species and habitats.
 - Appropriate **site management and legal status** (Phase III) is also very important to reach specific conservation objectives. In countries with many sites already in place, the current indicator of the proportion of sites with management plans (Table 1) is important to measure the Emerald Network overall implementation (see also Chapter 5.4)
 - The Sufficiency Index is calculated from the **conclusions of biogeographical evaluation seminars** – where the Emerald Network sufficiency has been assessed and discussed for each species and habitat in each country and biogeographical region;
 - Biogeographical assessments and discussions at the seminars are possible only when a country has completed and submitted **Emerald Network databases** (SDF) which, among other information, provide details about site boundaries and conservation objects (species and habitats) present.

To conclude, it is suggested that the 2030 targets should primarily focus on the expected increase of the Sufficiency Index. Yet the latter depends upon the submission of new Emerald Network databases which should be regarded as a technical sub-target (a homework for countries). Additional targets can be set about legal protection and management of sites: developing management plans and implementing conservation measures.

5.2. Types of sufficiency conclusions in bio-geographical assessments

It is important to remind that sufficiency conclusions are more complex than just judging whether the current Emerald Network is sufficient or not sufficient for a certain species or habitat under review. A number of sufficiency conclusions have been systematically used during the biogeographical evaluation process. With respect to all the categories which are not sufficient, it is often not understood that each conclusion type requires certain actions to be taken in order to change the conclusion into “sufficient” (Table 3).

Further information is provided in addition to the conclusion category. For example, the insufficiency concerns certain parts of the country (e.g. name, north or south) or requires data corrections or concerns the species name or the population assessment.

⁹ [Emerald Network Barometer - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats \(coe.int\)](https://www.coe.int/t/t10/BioDiversity/Convention/Convention+on+the+Conservation+of+European+Wildlife+and+Natural+Habitats+coe.int)

Table 3. Types (categories) of sufficiency conclusions and their explanations. The first category (in *Italics*) is considered sufficient; the other five categories represent different types of insufficiencies. Note also that there could be more than one insufficiency conclusion for one species or habitat.

Category	Abbreviation*	Expected activity
<i>Sufficient</i>	<i>SUF</i>	<i>Emerald Network is sufficient for a particular feature, no further action is required from the Contracting Party.</i>
Insufficient - major	IN MAJ	No site for a feature – additional site(s) are necessary.
Insufficient – moderate	IN MOD	There are some sites for a feature, but additional sites or their extension are necessary.
Insufficient – minor	IN MIN	No additional sites are necessary, but the feature must be recorded in the SDFs in one or more existing sites in the Emerald Network database.
Scientific reserve	SR	It is not possible to reach a conclusion about the feature due to the lack of information. Additional study (either field or desk) is necessary to obtain necessary data.
Correction of data	CD	In the database, the information about the feature is erroneous or incomplete. The country is required to do appropriate corrections.

*Standard coding in official seminar conclusions

As can be seen from Table 3 below, the fact that a species or a habitat is not sufficient does not automatically mean that there is a requirement to designate additional protected areas. There are at least two other types of actions that may be required: work with the Emerald Network database (IN MIN, CD) and implementation of additional scientific research or inventory (SR).

It is also important to realise that the conclusions need to be strictly followed by countries in their homework because the successive sufficiency assessments start with the analysis of whether the previous conclusions have been addressed or not. For example, if the conclusion was IN MOD – did the country propose new sites for the feature?

Up to date such conclusions are available for more than 8,800 assessments (feature per country per bio-geographical region)¹⁰.

5.3. Proposal of targets for the Sufficiency Index

Targets are best expressed in quantitative terms (as numbers). Only this way it is possible to objectively assess if the target has been met and, if not, what is the remaining “distance to the target”. Based on the experience of the Emerald Network calendar (2011-2020), it is strongly recommended to express the 2030 Emerald Network targets numerically.

However, it is recognised that there are currently large differences among Contracting Parties in the number of biogeographical evaluations they went through (Table 4) and in the resulting Sufficiency Indexes (see Emerald Network Barometer, Table 5 or Figure 2 below). In addition, some Parties have not yet started the bio-geographical process. Therefore, from today’s perspective, countries have quite different starting points with respect to the possible target to be achieved by 2030. Thus, to minimise these differences we propose to group countries by the number of assessments they went through, and to set different Sufficiency Index targets to be achieved by 2030 for each group (Table 4).

¹⁰ [T-PVS/PA\(2022\)13 \(coe.int\)](https://www.coe.int/t/T-PVS/PA(2022)13)

Table 4. List of Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention in respect to the number of bio-geographical sufficiency evaluation rounds they have participated in.

No evaluation	One round	Two rounds	Three rounds	Other
<i>Group 0</i>	<i>Group 1</i>	<i>Group 2</i>	<i>Group 3</i>	<i>Group 4</i>
Burkina Faso Monaco Morocco Senegal Tunisia Türkiye	Albania (AL) Andorra (AD) Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA) Iceland (IS) Liechtenstein (LI) Montenegro (ME) North Macedonia (MK) Serbia (RS) Switzerland (CH)	Armenia (AM) Azerbaijan (AZ) Republic of Moldova (MD) Norway (NO) Ukraine (UA)	Georgia (GE)	United Kingdom * (UK)

* United Kingdom has previously undergone several evaluation rounds within the frame of the implementation of EU's Natura 2000 network. However, it should be discussed if UK's Emerald Network still needs to be evaluated as regards to bird species, because no systematic (species-by species) network sufficiency assessment has been done for birds in the EU.

Moreover, the increase of current Sufficiency Indexes for each country group (as in Table 4) have been projected assuming that each country should have two rounds of bio-geographical assessment within the period 2024-2030. This supposes the submission, by each country, of at least two Emerald Network database versions (Table 5). The proposed SI target to be achieved by December 2030 is based on the average (and approximated) rate of sufficiency increase after one bio-geographical assessment in the Emerald Network so far. This approach is not entirely scientific, yet this is the best possible estimate of what can be realistically achieved, based on concrete experience.

Table 5. A proposal for setting Emerald Network targets for the period to 2030. This is assuming 2 database submissions and 2 biogeographical assessments in the period 2024-2030. Country groupings as in Table 5. The situation of the UK should be treated separately.

Country grouping	2024 baseline			Target to 2030	
	Evaluation rounds	Number of countries	Average Sufficiency Index in March 2024	Evaluation rounds	Proposed Sufficiency Index target by the end of 2030
Group 0	None	7	-	2	25
Group 1	1	9	11.0	3	35
Group 2	2	5	26.3	4	50
Group 3	3	1	30.9	5	60

Countries need to be aware of the actions to be undertaken in order to achieve the proposed targets. Thus Table 6 provides numeric statistics by type of actions required from countries to complete their national Emerald Networks. Figure 2 (below) is based on the same dataset but it also depicts individual proportions of each activity in order to better see which priorities are more important for which countries.

Table 6. Number of main conclusion types by country and their sufficiency indexes. Source: Emerald Network sufficiency database, end 2023. NOTE: the statistics do not include temporary conclusions such as ND (not discussed, W Balkans 2011). “SUF/CD” conclusion considered as “SUF”. SR include all kinds of scientific reserves, including to the Reference List, marine, etc. In case of multiple conclusions per feature, the “most work demanding” conclusion is considered IN MAJ < IN MOD < IN MIN < SR < CD.

Country	No action (sufficient)	Database (IN MIN +CD)	Research (SR)	New site (IN MAJ + IN MOD)	Total conclusions	Sufficiency Index (%)	Number of assessment rounds
BA	2	4	57	213	276	0.7	1
CH	3	2	27	177	209	1.4	1
IS	1	0	9	59	69	1.4	1
LI	10	1	11	82	104	9.6	1
AD	8	7	11	41	67	11.9	1
RS	45	11	127	150	333	13.5	1
MK	39	8	90	106	243	16.0	1
ME	44	34	78	114	270	16.3	1
NO	67	15	60	197	339	19.8	2
AZ	146	123	123	281	673	21.7	2
MD	130	128	96	187	541	24.0	2
AL	70	29	97	51	247	28.3	1
GE	343	237	184	346	1110	30.9	3
UA	589	164	146	571	1470	40.1	2
AM	358	51	21	91	521	68.7	2

Designating new territories as protected area is always the most difficult task for the authorities. This difficulty, judging from the experience, is one of the main obstacles preventing countries from delivering new Emerald Network databases. But as illustrated in Figure 2, the need to designate additional areas, either new sites or an extension of existing sites, is only one part of the actions required to solve existing insufficiencies. For example, countries such as RS, ME, MK, do not probably even need to propose additional sites to reach a Sufficiency Index of 50%, unless the outcome of the Scientific Reserves indicates a need for new site(s).

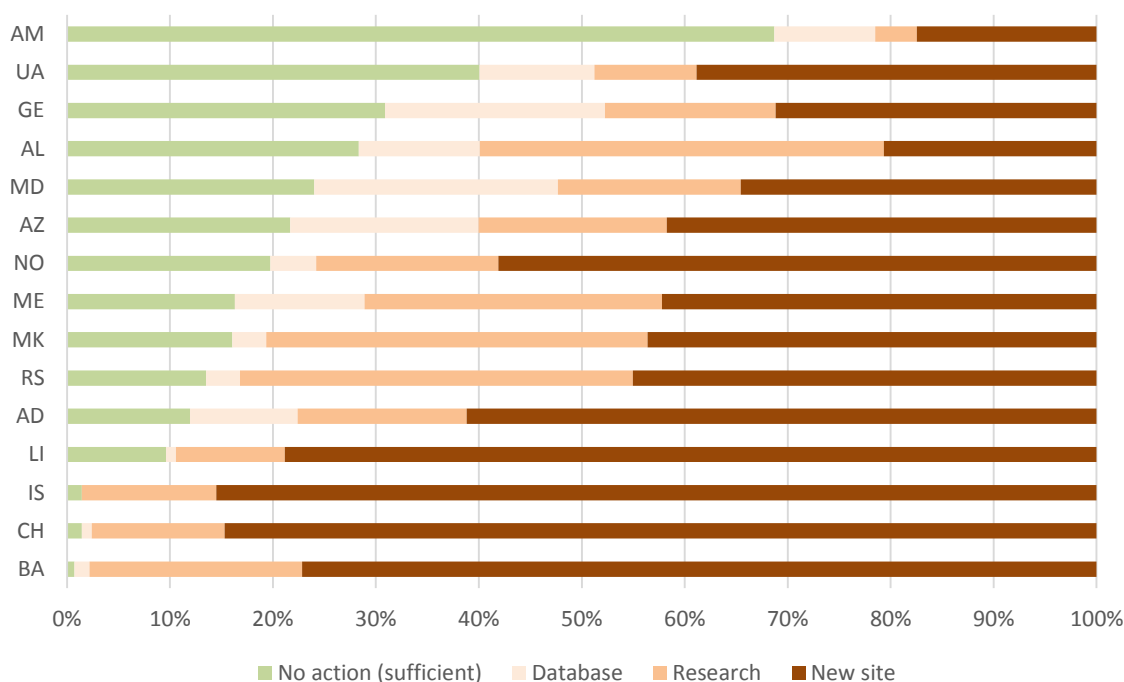


Figure 2. Proportion of types of actions needed to complete the Emerald Network in Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention. The width of the green part can also be read as the Sufficiency Index.

It is also possible to focus on so-called “low-hanging fruits” such as working with the database and implementing additional research and data analyses. These elements are equally important in the overall Emerald Network implementation process. Data quality is the key factor enabling various analyses and prioritising actions. Sometimes even these activities can be difficult, time and resources demanding, but they still mostly depend on the scientific community (state or NGO), and not on the entire society.

It is advised to work on the network establishment on a regular basis (whatever action it may take), and also to submit databases regularly. It is important to keep the biogeographical evaluation process running because, in the past, long intermissions (between assessment cycles) always proved to create a lot of problems – loss of momentum, change of staff, difficulty to return to the issue after time and change of obstacles.

5.4. Proposal of target for the adoption of Emerald Network sites

Once Emerald Network sites have been identified and described in the Phase I, and assessed at bio-geographical level in Phase II, it is important to ensure appropriate legal protection necessary to ensure long-term persistence of species and habitats present in the sites.

To measure progress in the implementation of the Phase II of the constitution process of the Emerald Network focusing on the legal protection of the Emerald Network sites, it is proposed to set a target that all Emerald Network sites which went through the bio-geographical evaluation process until 2028 should be adopted by the Standing Committee by 2030.

5.5. Proposal of target for the management of Emerald Network sites

For the successful conservation, the Emerald Network sites require not only a delineation and a legal protection but also established conservation objectives and adequate conservation measures planned and implemented along with the monitoring of species and habitats. Thus, it is proposed also to set a numeric target related to the Phase III of the Emerald Network constitution process.

Currently the Emerald Network Barometer contains only one indicator: the percentage of Emerald

Network sites with management plans developed (see Table 1 above). Data for this indicator are readily available from the Emerald Standard Data Form that is currently in use. In the case if the new Natura 2000 Standard Data Form (SDF)¹¹ would be adapted for the Emerald Network, it would be possible to extend the management aspects of Emerald Network sites also to the implementation of conservation measures. The revised SDF contains a new section (5.3) on conservation measures from which indicators could be developed, such as the percentage of sites where conservation measures have been fully established and/or the percentage of sites where the conservation measures are delivering the set of conservation objectives.

Yet, it is unlikely that such target could comprehensively be quantified for 2030 for all countries, because, in the current SDF format, the conservation measures field is not mandatory and may not be filled systematically by all countries.

The rate of management plans developed cannot be calculated from the bio-geographical evaluation process documentation (like the Sufficiency Index). Therefore, it has to be a separate exercise using the Emerald Network SDF field 6.2 Management plan¹². Currently the average rate of the development of management plans for Emerald Network sites in Contracting Parties that have submitted Emerald Network databases is 25%. As target for 2030, we propose to build on the experience from the Natura 2000 network in the EU. For the Emerald Network, 2030 approximately corresponds to 20 years after the start of the bio-geographical process (i.e. it started in 2011). For Natura 2000, the 20-year landmark was in 2016 (it started in 1996). In 2016, 40% of Natura 2000 sites had management plans reported (Table 1). Thus, we propose that, by 2030 40% of the Emerald Network sites should have management plans.

It should however be noted, that in some countries also forestry plans, general development plans and other planning documents that cover the respective area are reported as management plans of the Emerald Network sites in SDFs, even if they do not refer to concrete species and habitats which are subject for designation and protection in a particular site. In the future, Parties should critically evaluate the information provided in SDFs concerning the management of the sites and indicate only those plans or other documents that are specific to species and habitats and contain at least such basic elements as conservation objectives, conservation measures and monitoring.

6. Summary of final proposal of targets

Table 7 below summarises the targets to 2030 discussed above. The proposed targets should be regarded as a minimum value to be achieved. Depending on their capacities and ambition, non-EU Contracting Parties are encouraged to step up their efforts and to go beyond these targets.

The achievement of these targets is subject to the delivery of 2 updated Emerald Network databases within the period 2024 – 2030. Previous experience shows that two bio-geographical assessment cycles in the remaining 6.5 year period until end-2030 is achievable if country activity is sufficient. It is also presumed, that this time period is also sufficient to ensure more legal protection of sites and development of new management plans (or the reviews of existing ones). Also it is recommended that countries attempt to have a good progress in all these work directions.

¹¹ [Implementing decision - 2023/2806 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/2806/oj/1)

¹² <https://rm.coe.int/16806a93e6>

Table 7. Summary of proposals as targets for the Emerald Network targets for the period to 2030. Indicator 1 relates to Phase I, indicators 2 and 3 to Phase II, indicator 4 to Phase III of the constitution process of the Emerald Network. The indicators 1 and 2 proposed in this paper relate to the Goal 1, target 1.2 and target 1.3 of the Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention for the period to 2030.

Number of indicator	Indicator description	Proposed 2030 target value
1	Number of new or updated Emerald Network databases	2*
2	Sufficiency Index A proportion of “sufficient” conclusions versus all conclusions	Group 0: 25% ** Group 1: 35% Group 2: 50% Group 3: 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%

* Some countries, in fact have already submitted one database since 2020 and these should be counted as well (see Chapter 4)

** Country grouping as in Table 4

The Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks is invited to consider the above proposal which will be discussed at the upcoming meeting in Vaduz on 17-18 April 2024.