



Strasbourg, 13 May 2024

T-PVS/PA(2024)10

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**  
44<sup>th</sup> meeting

**5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting**

30 April 2024  
(Online)

---

**- MEETING REPORT -**

*Document prepared by  
the Secretariat of the Bern Convention*

---

## 1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair

Ms Salome Nozadze, Chair of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting opened the meeting and welcomed the participants (see Appendix 2).

## 2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without change (see Appendix 1)

## 3. Conclusions of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting and objectives of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting

The Chair recalled the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting which took place on 9 November 2023.

The Working Group requested Contracting Parties to review their draft checklists by the end of January 2024.

The Working Group supported that:

- as a principle, marine features would not be included in the checklists but that Parties could decide to report on marine features on a voluntary basis;
- Parties were invited to report on species subject to reservations;
- species marked with (#) should be included in the checklists.

The Working Group welcomed the simplifications and changes imported from the revised format of the reporting under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive.

The Working Group discussed specifically the changes reflected in the favourable reference values, the date to be considered for the range, the percentages estimates for trends, the population units, and the pressures and threats.

The Working Group discussed also whether the creation of a list of IAS for non-EU Bern Convention Parties should be considered for the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012).

Finally, The Chair informed members of the Working Group that the main objective of the meeting was to discuss whether the new fields introduced in the reporting format should be optional or mandatory.

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

The Secretariat informed that the 41<sup>st</sup> Standing Committee to the Bern Convention adopted in 2021 a Vision for the period to 2030 ([T-PVS\(2021\)14](#)) and in 2023 the 43<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee complemented it by adopting a strategic plan ([T-PVS\(2023\)18](#)).

The motto of the Vision was that “*By 2030, declines in biodiversity are halted, leading to recovery of wildlife and habitats, improving the lives of people and contributing to the health of the planet.*”

The Strategic Plan provided a guiding framework for the programmes and activities that were needed to achieve the Vision. The core of the Plan was a set of 4 agreed goals and 11 targets to be achieved by

2030. The Goal 1 with the targets 1.1 and 1.4 and the Goal 2 with the targets 2.1 and 2.2 directly relate to the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the conservation status of species and habitats.

The *Ad hoc* Working on Reporting acknowledged the importance to align the activities of the Bern Convention with the Vision and Strategic Plan for the period to 2030.

## **5. Checklists of species and habitats**

Mr Marc Roekaerts, consultant, informed the members of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting of the state of preparation of the checklists of species and habitats. Non-EU Contracting Parties were invited to review their draft checklists. Out of 18, 12 Contracting Parties provided feedback.

The checklists of 7 Parties required a second round of consultations and the 6 Parties which had not yet reviewed their draft checklists would be invited again to provide feedback by 10 June 2024.

Mr Roekaerts further explained that the population units considered in the revised reporting format would be added after the second consultation round and that the final checklists of species and habitats would be presented to the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting later this autumn.

## **6. State of preparation of the reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and status of Reportnet 3**

Ms Eleni Tryfon, European Environment Agency (EEA), reminded members of the Working Group that the reporting format, the explanatory notes and guidelines, the list of pressures and threats, the list of conservation measures and the list of additional population units of the reporting under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive were already finalised by the end of 2023.

Throughout 2024, work would continue on the checklists of species and habitats, on the helpdesk, on the update of the Reporting Reference Portal and on the FAQ section.

Ms Tryfon further informed that the dataflow schemas and the validation rules were already finalised and that the EEA was working towards embedding them into the Reportnet 3 delivery platform.

Internal tests were planned for August 2024, webinars for members States would take place in September 2024 and the reporting mechanism would be made available to reporters early 2025.

Mr Jonathan Maidens, European Environment Agency, updated members of the Working Group on the new Reportnet 3 delivery platform. Reportnet 3 had been developed because of increasing number of reporting obligations to be processed and an aging technology of the former delivery platform.

Reportnet 3 was more user friendly and enabled collaborative work.

He reassured that the overall reporting process would not change. Reporters would need to collect data, deliver them and get them validated. He emphasized that Reportnet 3 would store data and not files anymore.

## **7. Reporting format**

Based on the reporting format considered at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group, Members of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting were invited to discuss whether new fields added to the format or fields which were significantly amended should be optional or mandatory and how this could impact the outputs of the reporting.

Ms Laura Patricia Gavilán, consultant, referred to the discussion paper [T-PVS/PA\(2024\)07](#) and informed members of the Working Group that the choice between mandatory and optional fields should be guided by whether the data required was necessary for the assessment of the conservation status or not. She emphasized that even if a field was compulsory, it was still possible to report that no data was available.

Members of the Working Group went through the new fields added to the reporting format and the fields which were significantly changed. Conclusions of their discussion were wrapped up in the table below:

<b>Proposed compulsory field</b>	<b>Final decision</b>
<b>PART A: General reporting format</b>	
1 Main achievements under Recommendation No. 16 (1986) and Resolution No. 5 (1998)	Compulsory
2.7 Measures taken to ensure the coherence of the Emerald Network	Compulsory
<b>PART B: Reporting format on species, except birds, listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998)</b>	
5.12 Favourable reference range	Compulsory
6.2 Population size	Compulsory
6.11 Short-term trend magnitude	Compulsory
6.12 Short-term trend Magnitude - Type of estimate	Compulsory
6.18 Favourable reference population	Compulsory
7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat - Method used	Compulsory
8.1 Characterisation of pressures	Compulsory
9.2 Scope of measures taken	<b>Optional</b>
12.8 Short-term trend of habitat for the species within the network - Direction	Compulsory
12.9 Short-term trend of habitat for the species within the network - Method used	Compulsory
<b>PART D: Reporting format on habitat types listed in Resolution No. 4 (1996) with a 1 to 1 relationship with habitats of Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive</b>	
4.12 Favourable reference range	Compulsory
5.8 Short-term trend magnitude for area	Compulsory
5.9 Short-term trend Magnitude - Type of estimate	Compulsory
5.15 Favourable reference area	Compulsory
7.1 Characterisation of pressures	Compulsory
8.1 Status of measures	Compulsory
8.2 Scope of measures taken	<b>Optional</b>
8.3 Mean purpose of measures taken	Compulsory
11.4 Short-term trend of habitat area within the network - Direction	Compulsory
11.5 Short-term trend of habitat area within the network - Method used	Compulsory

## 8. Invasive Alien Species

Mr Riccardo Scalera, consultant, presented to the members of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting a scoping paper ([T-PVS/PA\(2024\)06](#)) discussing the extent to which the list of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) of Union concern referred to in the format of the reporting under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive would be relevant for the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012).

4 potential options for the purpose of reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) were discussed, specifically designed for non-EU Parties to the Bern Convention:

1. No specific list: Non-EU Parties would be required to provide inputs on IAS acting as a threat to species and habitats protected by the Bern Convention, only voluntarily using for example the list of species of Union concern or the EASIN catalogue or, if relevant, national lists of IAS.
2. Union list (mandatory), complemented with voluntary list: Non-EU Parties would be required to mandatorily report on IAS of Union concern complemented on a voluntary basis using for example the EASIN catalogue or, if relevant, national lists of IAS.

3. Union list amended (mandatory), complemented with voluntary list: The list of species of Union concern is amended to reflect the priorities of non-EU Parties and complemented on a voluntary basis using for example the EASIN catalogue or, if relevant, national lists of IAS.
4. *Ad hoc* Bern Convention list of selected IAS (mandatory), complemented with voluntary list: Development of an *Ad hoc* list of IAS by non-EU Parties specifically tailored for the reporting requirements and complemented on a voluntary basis using for example the EASIN catalogue or, if relevant, national lists of IAS.

Following a lively exchange of views, members of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting acknowledged the importance of reporting against a common list of IAS. This list of IAS would be presented as a dropdown menu under the section addressing threats to species and habitats. Reporters would be required to indicate if such threat existed and to select one or several IAS from the list.

Members of the Working Group supported the further elaboration of option 2.

## **9. Reporting guidelines: Explanatory notes**

Members of the Working Group had not the time to discuss the Explanatory notes of the reporting guidelines presented in document [T-PVS/PA\(2024\)08](#).

The Secretariat informed that the Explanatory notes would be updated in the light of the outcomes of the discussion on the reporting format (see item 7 above) and then shared with members of the Working Group for their feedback. The questions and comments raised would be collected and addressed orally at the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting in the autumn.

## **10. Any other business**

No other business was raised.

## **11. Conclusions of the meeting**

The Secretariat informed members that the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting had been provisionally scheduled on 25 October 2024.

The Chair thanked the participants for their constructive inputs and closed the meeting. meeting closed.



## Appendix I – Agenda

		Documents	Expected results
<i>Tuesday 30 April 2024</i>			
10.00	<b>1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair</b>		
	<b>2. Adoption of the agenda</b>	Meeting agenda T-PVS/Agenda(2024)04  <b>For adoption</b>	Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting are informed of the aims of the meeting and adopt the agenda.
	<b>3. Conclusions of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting and objectives of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting</b>  <i>Presentation by the Chair</i>  <i>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are reminded of the outcomes of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group and informed of the expected objectives of the meeting.</i>	Report of the 4 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting <a href="#">T-PVS/PA(2023)06</a>  <b>For information</b>	Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group take note of the state of play of the discussions and of the objectives of the meeting.
	<b>4. Vision and Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention for the period to 2030</b>  <i>Presentation by the Secretariat</i>	Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 <a href="#">T-PVS(2023)18</a>	Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group take note of the Vision and Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention for the period to 2030.

	<p><i>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are informed of the Vision and Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 and invited to reflect on the contribution of the work of the Working Group to the achievement of the Strategic Plan.</i></p>	<p>Vision for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030  <a href="#">T-PVS(2021)14</a></p> <p><b>For information</b></p>	
	<p><b>5. Checklists of species and habitats</b></p> <p><i>Presentation by Marc Roekaerts</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are invited to exchange views on the draft checklists of species and habitats reviewed in the light of the outcomes of the consultation of non-EU Contracting Parties and to advise the Secretariat on follow up work.</i></p>	<p>State of play of the Checklists</p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group agree on the changes to be reflected in the checklists of species and habitats and provide the Secretariat with guidance for finalising them.</p>
	<p><b>6. State of preparation of the reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and status of Reportnet 3</b></p> <p><i>Presentation of the state of preparation of the reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive by Eleni Tryfon (European Environment Agency)</i></p> <p><i>Presentation of the Reportnet 3 delivery platform by Jonathan Maidens (European Environment Agency)</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are updated on the state of preparation of the reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and of the Reportnet 3 platform.</i></p>	<p><b>For information</b></p>	<p>Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group take note of the state of preparation of the reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and of the Reportnet 3 platform.</p>

	<p><b>7. Reporting format</b></p> <p><i>Presentation of the proposed validation rules for the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) by Marc Roekaerts / Laura Gavilan</i></p> <p><i>Based on the reporting format considered at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group, Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are invited to discuss whether fields should be optional or mandatory and how this could impact the outputs of the reporting. Depending on the outcomes of the discussion, Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are also invited to examine options of validation rules.</i></p>	<p>Discussion paper on whether fields should be mandatory or optional and the impact on the outputs of the reporting including proposals of validation rules  <a href="#">T-PVS/PA(2024)07</a></p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting agree on whether fields should be optional or mandatory and on the related validation rules.</p>
	<p><b>8. Invasive Alien Species</b></p> <p><i>Presentation by Riccardo Scalerà</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are informed of different options for cross-checking the relevance of the list of IAS of Union concern beyond the borders of the EU and, if appropriate, complement the list. The Working Group should also discuss possible follow up work.</i></p>	<p>Scoping paper exploring different options for cross-checking the relevance of the list of IAS of Union concern beyond the borders of the EU  <a href="#">T-PVS/PA(2024)06</a></p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting agree on the most straight forward option to cross check the relevance of the list of IAS of Union concern in non-EU Contracting Parties and, if appropriate, on the procedure for complement it.</p>
	<p><b>9. Reporting guidelines: Explanatory notes</b></p> <p><i>Presentation by Laura Gavilan</i></p> <p><i>In light of the recommendations of the Working Group at its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are invited to examine explanatory notes of the reporting guidelines and to discuss follow up work.</i></p>	<p>Reporting guidelines: Explanatory notes  <a href="#">T-PVS/PA(2024)08</a></p> <p><b>For discussion and decision</b></p>	<p>Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting agree on changes to be reflected in the explanatory notes of the reporting guidelines and provide the Secretariat with guidance to finalise them.</p>



	<b>10. Any other business</b>		
	<b>11. Conclusions of the meeting</b>		
<b>15.00</b>	<i>Tuesday 30 April 2024</i> <b>End of the meeting</b>		



## Appendix 2 – List of Participants

### CONTRACTING PARTIES

Country	Name
Georgia	Ms Salome NOZADZE Chair of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting
Montenegro	Ms Anela SIJARIĆ
Norway	Mr Endre GRÜNER OFSTAD
Serbia	Ms Snezana PROKIC
	Mr Ivan MEDENICA
Slovak Republic	Mr Jan CERNEKY
Switzerland	Ms Danielle HOFMANN
	Ms Gabriella SILVESTRI
United Kingdom	Mr Scott HARDY
	Ms Maria CHADWICK
	Ms Sarah SCOTT

### OBSERVERS

Organisation	Representative
European Environment Agency	Ms Eleni TRYFON
European Environment Agency	Mr Jonathan MAIDENS
European Topic Centre on Biodiversity & Ecosystems	Ms Rafaella CANESSA
FACE	Ms Sabrina DIETZ

**EXPERTS**

<b>Ms Laura Patricia GAVILAN</b>	Consultant
<b>Mr Marc ROEKAERTS</b>	Consultant
<b>Mr Riccardo SCALERA</b>	Consultant

**SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

<b>Mr Mikaël POUTIERS</b>	Secretary of the Bern Convention
<b>Mr Marc HORY</b>	Project Manager Secretariat of the Bern Convention
<b>Ms Irina SPOIALA</b>	Administrative Assistant Secretariat of the Bern Convention