



Strasbourg, 1st November 2024

T-PVS/PA(2024)17

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

44th meeting

Strasbourg, 2 - 6 December 2024

6th meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting

25 October 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. Contribution of the reporting to the indicators of the Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention

Mr Dave Pritchard, consultant, informed the participants of the outcomes of the discussions of the second meeting of the Working Group overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention. The reporting on the conservation status of species and habitats under Resolution No. 8 (2012) was contributing to the monitoring of the Strategic Plan.

Mr Pritchard pointed to the document Operationalising the Strategic Plan's indicators – next steps ([T-PVS\(2024\)12](#)). Out of 16 adopted indicators, four were expected to be informed by the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012).

1.1.a Trends in extent and condition of selected habitat and ecosystem types
1.4 Contribution of the Emerald Network to the conservation status of habitats
2.1 Conservation status of species, as reported under Resolution No. 8 (2012)
2.2 Trends in frequency and severity of key anthropogenic pressures impacting on species of wild flora and fauna, as reported under Resolution No. 8 (2012) and the EU nature Directives

A shared understanding of the contribution of the reporting to the indicators between both working groups i.e. the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting and the Working Group overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention should therefore be ensured.

The members of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting supported the organisation of a joint meeting of both working groups in order to address technical questions.

4. Conclusions of the 5th meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting and objectives of the 6th meeting

The Chair recalled the outcomes of the 5th meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting which took place on 30 April 2024.

The checklists of species and habitats were reviewed, mandatory and optional fields of the reporting format were agreed on, the new Reportnet 3 delivery platform was introduced, options for the development of a list of Invasive Alien Species were examined, Guidelines on Explanatory notes were briefly presented.

The Chair also informed participant of the expected results of the 6th meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting and emphasised that it was the last meeting of the Working Group before the 44th Standing Committee which will be invited to endorse the reporting documentation.

The checklists of species and habitats, the reporting format, and the Guidelines on Explanatory notes were to be finalised, The Guidelines on Concepts and Definitions, the proposal of list of Invasive Alien Species were to be examined.

5. Checklists of species and habitats

Mr Marc Roekaerts, consultant, presented to the participants the final draft checklists of species and habitats. He recalled that 17 non-EU Contracting Parties were concerned and informed participants that 9 Contracting Parties had provided feedback within the frame of the second consultation round and that 7 Parties had never replied neither to the solicitations of the consultants nor of the Secretariat.

General principles had been applied to the checklists: records regarding marine features and marine regions had been deleted and only habitats with a 1 to 1 relationship with the habitats listed in Annex 1 of the EU Habitats Directive had been considered. Furthermore, species scientific names were reviewed along the Catalogue of Life and population units agreed on in the reporting format had been added.

Overall, according to the final draft checklists 1915 reports on species and 214 reports on habitats were expected.

The representative of Switzerland informed that she would provide comments on the proposed checklist in the coming days.

If appropriate the checklists of species and habitats would be updated accordingly. A remaining record of marine species had still to be removed. The mechanism for optionally reporting on marine features in Reportnet 3 was still being considered.

6. Reporting format

Ms Laura Patricia Gavilán, consultant, recalled that the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting agreed at its 5th meeting on mandatory and optional fields.

The reporting format (and the Guidelines on Explanatory notes) were structured along 5 parts:

- Part A – General report: gives an overview of the implementation and general measures taken under the Bern Convention.
- Part B – Reporting format for species, except birds (Annex F), listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998).
- Part C – Assessing conservation status of a species (Species evaluation matrix).
- Part D – Reporting format for habitat listed in Resolution No. 4 (1996) with a 1 to 1 relationship with habitat types of the Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
- Part E – Assessing conservation status of a habitat type (Habitat type evaluation matrix).

The main changes affected the population size reporting units, the short-term trend magnitude, the Favourable Reference Values, the pressures and threats and the conservation measures.

7. Reporting guidelines: Explanatory notes

Ms Laura Patricia Gavilán, consultant, recalled that the guidelines had been aligned on the reporting format to reflect the mandatory and optional fields and that participants in the 5th meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting had the opportunity to provide comments on the Guidelines on Explanatory notes in writing. No comment had been received.

8. Reporting guidelines: Concepts and definitions

Ms Laura Patricia Gavilán, consultant, informed participants that Guidelines on Concepts and Definitions complemented the Reporting Format and the Guidelines on Explanatory Notes.

She drew the attention of the participants to the concepts considered for defining the conservation status of the species and habitats:

- Range: dynamic parameter defined as the outermost envelope where species or habitats occur. A tool for calculating the range was in development.
- Species population: to ensure a favourable conservation status, the population of a species should not be lower than the favourable reference population. She also recalled that population units had changed from 1 x 1 km grids to individuals.
- Habitat for the species: physical and biological requirements of the species, including seasonal requirements, during all stages of its life cycle.
- Structure and functions of habitat: the specific structure and functions which are necessary for the long-term maintenance in good condition of the habitat.
- Trends: directional change of a parameter. For species: range/population/habitat for the species and for habitats: range/area covered by habitat/structure & functions.
- Favourable Reference Values (FRVs): Favourable Reference Range (species and habitats), Favourable Reference Population (species), Favourable Reference Area (habitats). She underlined that operators were no longer used and that the reference date used as baseline would be when Resolution No. 8 (2012) came into force. In the subsequent discussion, it was highlighted that EU member States would be using the date the Habitats Directive came into force (1994) as a baseline for FRVs. The representative of the UK stated that they intend to continue using 1994 as their baseline to avoid any inconsistencies between their national report and the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012).
- Future Prospects: future trends of each parameter.

The Guidelines on Concepts and Definitions would be circulated among participants for written feedback.

9. Validation schema

Ms Laura Patricia Gavilán, consultant, informed participants that the validation schema were ready but that their implementation in Reportnet 3 should still be discussed with the European Environment Agency.

The general principle was to reduce the blockers to a minimum for ensuring data integrity. It would take into account the specificities of the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) in comparison with the reporting under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive, namely the compulsory and optional fields, the names of fields and reference tables, the codes of the species and habitats considered, etc.

10. Invasive Alien Species

Mr Riccardo Scalera, consultant, recalled that the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting at its 5th meeting supported the development of a list of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) based on the European Union list (mandatory), and complemented with a voluntary list using for example the EASIN catalogue or, if relevant, national lists of IAS.

The initial dataset was provided by the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS) and considered the IAS in 15 non-EU Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention.

The development of the shortlist proposed was the result of a selection process based on a 6-steps approach, which allowed to extract 134 species from the initial long list including over 5800 taxa and a total of 12,455 records.

- Step 1 – Removal of species that are not invasive;
- Step 2 – Removal of species that are identified as native within a part of a country;

- Step 3 – Removal of duplicate records (for species which have more records for a single country);
- Step 4 – Exclusion of species that are present in one country only;
- Step 5 – Exclusion of species that are native in at least one of the countries which are Parties to the Bern Convention;
- Step 6 – Exclusion of species already listed among those of Union concern, as of Regulation (EU) 1143/2014.

In the subsequent discussion, members of the Working Group expressed overall satisfaction with the shortlist. To ensure it was relevant for all Parties, the shortlist would be shared with the 15 non-EU countries which contributed to the initial dataset.

Members of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting suggested to use the results of the reporting for creating a more accurate list of IAS.

Considering that reporters had to report mandatorily on IAS of Union concern and voluntarily on the shortlist of IAS, a technical question had still to be addressed namely, how to differentiate the IAS of Union concern from the IAS shortlisted by non-EU Parties in the drop-down menu. Adding an (*) to the IAS shortlisted could be an option to be explored with the European Environment Agency.

11. Reporting Reference Portal

Ms Laura Patricia Gavilán, consultant, informed participants that a number of documents had already been updated:

- Reporting format
- Guidelines on Explanatory notes
- Guidelines on Concepts and Definitions
- List of pressures and threats
- List of conservation measures
- Checklist for the habitat types listed in Resolution No. 4 (1996)
- Checklist for the species listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998)
- List of population units
- Examples of conversion of population units (link to the Reference Portal of the reporting under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive)

She highlighted the changes in the Lists of pressures and threats and of conservation measures.

Further resources would become available beginning of the 2025, namely import templates in Excel format:

- Import template for habitats checklist (new additions)
- Import template for species checklist (new additions)
- Import template for species
- Import template for habitats
- Import template general report
- Import template species spatial information
- Import template habitat spatial information

Finally, a range tool and a data delivery manual were in preparation.

The documents available would be uploaded to the Reporting Reference Portal after their endorsement by the 44th Standing Committee.

Furthermore, the Secretariat would look into the possibility to organise in 2025 capacity building activities for Parties.

12. Any other business

No other business was raised.

13. Conclusions of the meeting

The Chair thanked the participants for their constructive contribution to the discussions and invited them to provide feedback in writing on the Guideline on Concepts and Definitions and on the shortlist of Invasive Alien Species.



Appendix I – Agenda

		Documents	Expected results
Friday 25 October 2024			
10.00	1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair		
	2. Adoption of the agenda	Meeting agenda T-PVS/Agenda(2024)16 For adoption	Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting are informed of the aims of the meeting and adopt the agenda.
	3. Contribution of the reporting to the indicators of the Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention <i>Presentation by Dave Pritchard</i> <i>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are informed of the expectations from the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) for informing the indicators of the Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention and are invited to exchange views on how to best contribute to the indicators of the Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention.</i>	Operationalising the Strategic Plan's indicators – next steps T-PVS(2024)12 For discussion and decision	Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting take note of the expectations from the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) and ensure the reporting format is consistent and able to deliver the requested information.

	<p>4. Conclusions of the 5th meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting and objectives of the 6th meeting</p> <p><i>Presentation by the Chair</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are reminded of the outcomes of the 5th meeting of the Working Group and informed of the expected objectives of the meeting.</i></p>	<p>Report of the 5th meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting T-PVS/PA(2024)10</p> <p>For information</p>	<p>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group take note of the state of play of the discussions and of the objectives of the meeting.</p>
	<p>5. Checklists of species and habitats</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 prepared in consultation with non-EU Contracting Parties.</i></p>	<p>Checklists of species and habitats T-PVS/PA(2024)15</p> <p>For discussion and decision</p>	<p>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group agree on the checklists of species and habitats to be considered for the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012).</p>
	<p>6. Reporting format</p> <p><i>Presentation by Laura Gavilan</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are invited to exchange views on the final draft Reporting Format.</i></p>	<p>Reporting Format T-PVS/PA(2024)14</p> <p>For discussion and decision</p>	<p>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting agree on the reporting format.</p>
	<p>7. Reporting guidelines: Explanatory notes</p> <p><i>Presentation by Laura Gavilan</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are</i></p>	<p>Reporting guidelines: Explanatory notes T-PVS/PA(2024)13</p>	<p>Members of the Ad hoc 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>

	<i>invited to examine the explanatory notes of the reporting guidelines and to discuss follow up work.</i>	For discussion and decision	
	<p>8. Reporting guidelines: Concepts and definitions</p> <p><i>Presentation by Laura Gavilan</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are invited to examine the concepts and definitions of the reporting guidelines and to discuss follow up work.</i></p>	<p>Reporting guidelines: Concepts and definitions</p> <p>T-PVS/PA(2024)16</p> <p>For discussion and decision</p>	<p>Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting agree on changes to be reflected in the concepts and definitions of the reporting guidelines and provide the Secretariat with guidance to finalise them.</p>
	<p>9. Validation schema</p> <p><i>Presentation by Laura Gavilan</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are informed of state of development of the validation schema</i></p>	<p>For information</p>	<p>Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting take note of the information provided regarding the validation schema.</p>
	<p>10. Invasive Alien Species</p> <p><i>Presentation by Riccardo Scalera</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are informed of the state of preparation of the list of IAS to be considered for the reporting and invited to advise the Secretariat on follow up work.</i></p>	<p>Draft list of Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>T-PVS/PA(2024)12</p> <p>For discussion and decision</p>	<p>Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting agree on the changes to be reflected in the list of IAS and provide the Secretariat with guidance to finalise it.</p>
	<p>11. Reporting Reference Portal</p> <p><i>Presentation by Laura Gavilan</i></p>	<p>Reporting Reference Portal</p>	<p>Members of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting provide the Secretariat with guidance to complete the update the Reporting Reference Portal.</p>

	<i>Members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are informed of the resources available from the Reporting Reference Portal and exchange views on follow up work.</i>	For information	
	12. Any other business		
	13. Conclusions of the meeting		
16.30	<i>Friday 25 October 2024</i> End of the meeting		



Appendix 2 – List of Participants

CONTRACTING PARTIES

Country	Name
Georgia	Ms Salome NOZADZE Chair of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Reporting
Monaco	Ms Astrid CLAUDEL-RUSLIN
Norway	Mr Tomas HOLMERN
Serbia	Ms Snezana PROKIC
	Mr Ivan MEDENICA
Switzerland	Ms Danielle HOFMANN
United Kingdom	Mr Scott HARDY
	Ms Sarah SCOTT

OBSERVERS

Organisation	Representative
European Environment Agency	Ms Eleni TRYFON
FACE	Ms Sabrina DIETZ

EXPERTS

Ms Laura Patricia GAVILAN	Consultant
Mr Marc ROEKAERTS	Consultant
Mr Riccardo SCALERA	Consultant
Mr Dave PRITCHARD	Consultant

SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Mr Marc HORY	Project Manager Secretariat of the Bern Convention
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