

Otars Opermanis, Kiev, 23 – 24 May 2018

SECOND BIO-GEOGRAPHICAL SEMINAR FOR BIRDS. BELARUS, MOLDOVA, UKRAINE: INTRODUCTION



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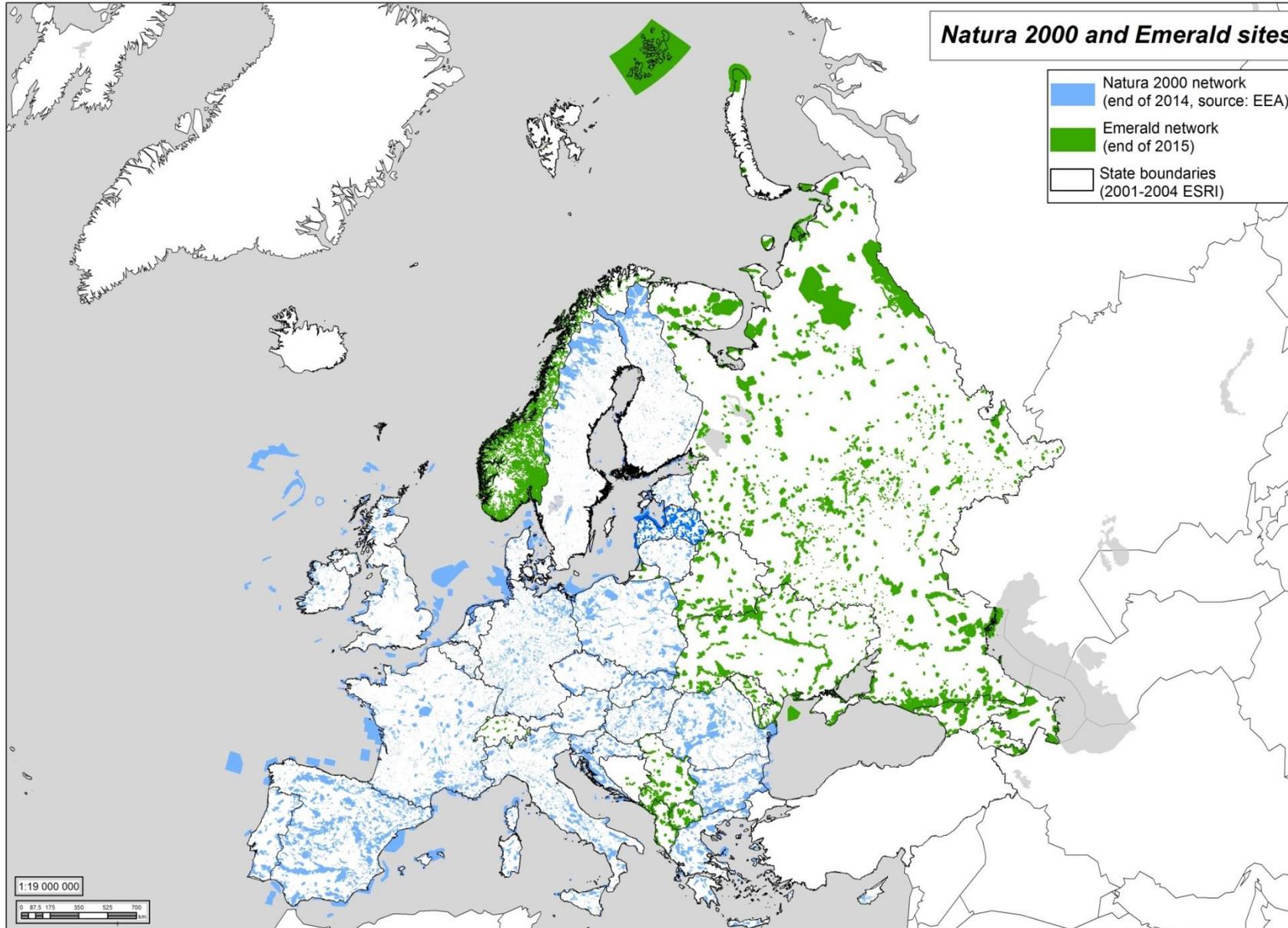
Convention de Berne
Bern Convention



Réseau Émeraude
Emerald Network



Background

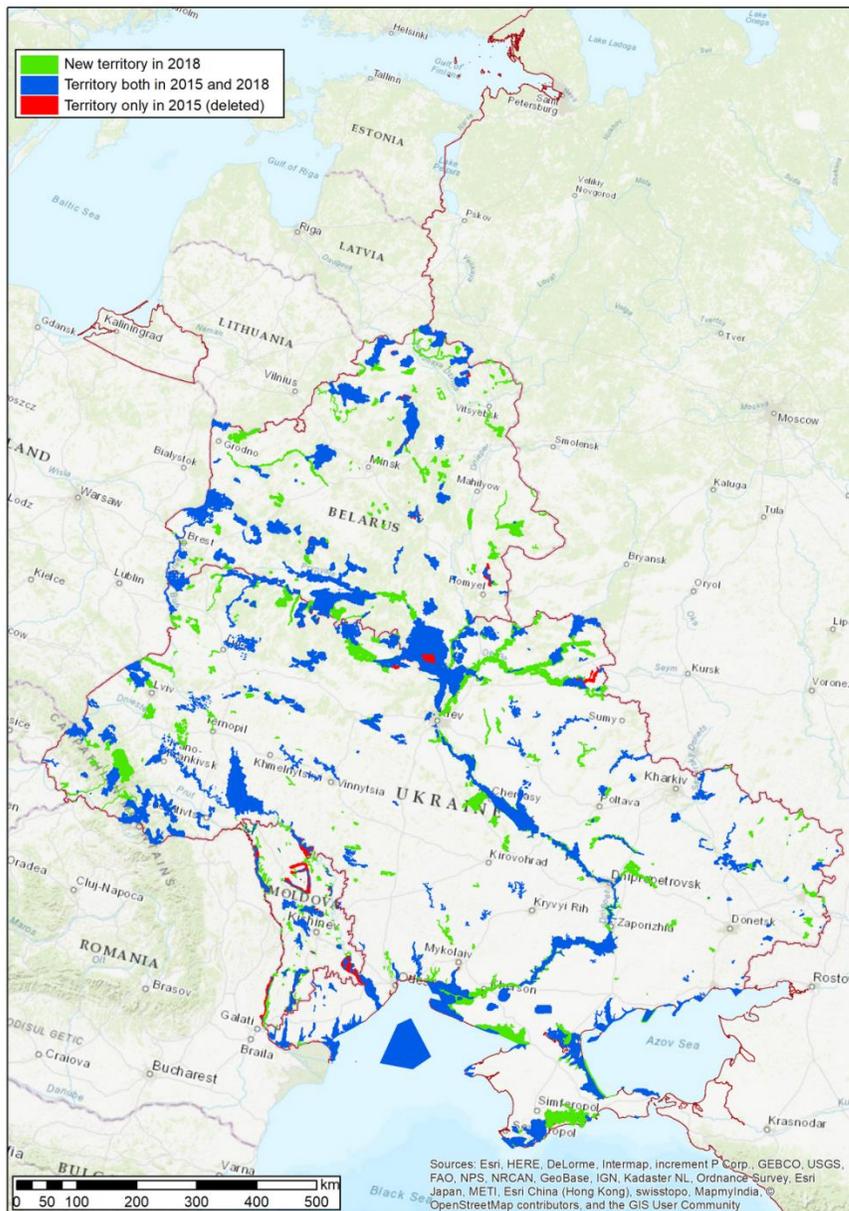


Emerald covers all of Europe and includes also all of the European Union Natura 2000 sites

Background

- Pilot projects held in all participating countries
- National proposals examined in biogeographical seminars
- First Emerald seminar held in 2011 (West Balkans)
- First seminars for the Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine held in 2015 and 2016. The first bird seminar was held in Minsk, December 2015
- Until today, only 2 second sufficiency evaluations have been held: for Norway (2016) and South Caucasus (2017)

Changes since last seminar



	2015			2018		
	number of sites	total site area	coverage %	number of sites	total site area	coverage %
BY	64	1824749	8.80	162	2428888	11.71
MD	26	373679	11.04	61	277902	8.21
UA	169	4680470	7.82	271	6248732	10.43

Seminar: aims

- Assess if the network of proposed ASCIs by Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine are now sufficient for each bird species listed in the Resolution 6 of the Berne Convention, as well as regularly occurring migratory species, using the agreed criteria;
- Consider opinions of different stakeholders: Governments, NGOs, scientific experts representing different other institutions
- Conclude on sufficiency for each species per country

Documents: preparations

- Pre-assessment by the European Topic Centre for Biological Diversity experts resulting in 'draft conclusions'
- Key steps in the above work for all Resolution 6 species:
 - Look at the SDFs submitted by countries
 - Look at previous seminar conclusion and check if changes solve previous insufficiencies
 - Search for additional reference data
 - Propose a possible conclusion
- The aim of the above is to ask questions where they appear and to start discussion.

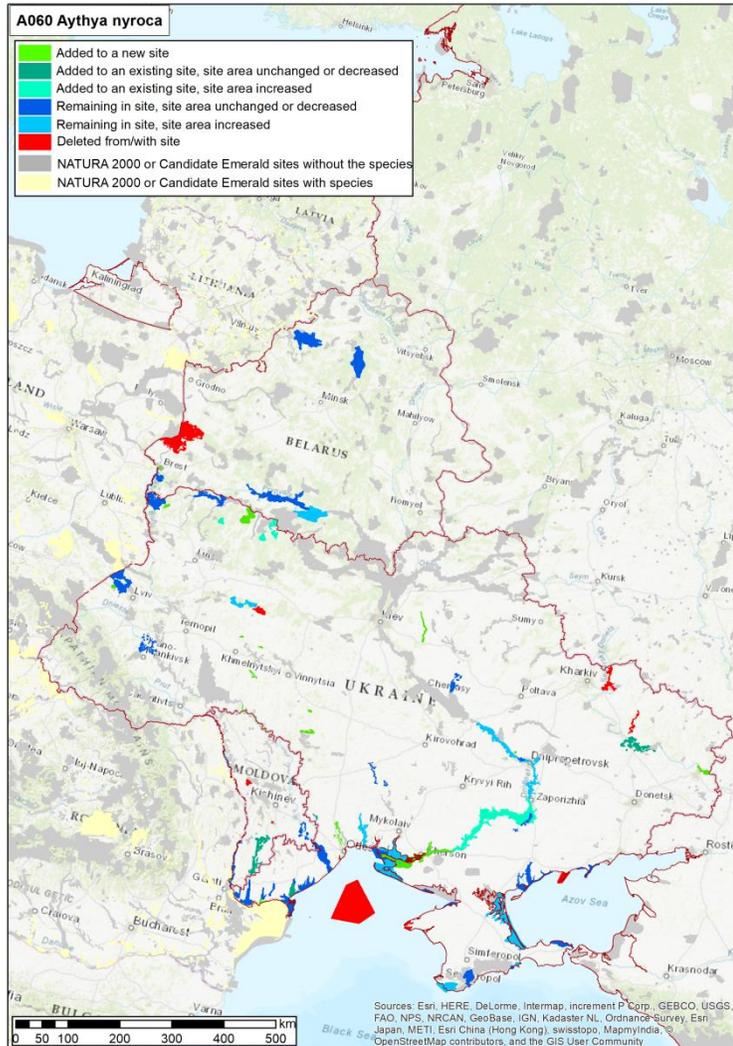
Documents: draft conclusions

Code	Species Name	Country iso	Final conclusion 2015	Final comments 2015	pASCI 2018	population assessment 2018	Draft Conclusion Comments 2018	Draft Conclusion 2018
A075	Haliaeetus albicilla	UA	SUF		103	(2A 23B 63C 15D)	BiE3: Br= (p80-100), Wi= (i250-390). SDF: c=(305- 439i), p=(3- 9i), (5- 7p), r=(8- 25i), (66- 100p), w=(400- 562i). Different number presentations in SDFs makes it difficult to judge about population coverage, but given the new sites added, SUF conclusion obviously remains.	SUF
A077	Neophron percnopterus	MD	EXCL REF LIST	-	1	(1C)	BiE3: Br= (p0-0) SDF: c=(0- 2i). Still remains in one site - MD0000014 - to be deleted?	CD?
A077	Neophron percnopterus	UA	EXCL REF LI	-		-	-	-
A078	Gyps fulvus	UA	SUF		7	(5A 2D)	BiE3: Br= (p8-10). SDF: c=(13- 12i), r= (6- 11p) w=(11- 15i). No significant changes, Conclusion remains. But... 2 new sites have been added in the middle of the country. Is this correct? CD needed?	SUF/CD?
A079	Aegypius monachus	UA	SUF		6	(6A)	BiE3: Br= (p2-3). SDF: c=(22- 10i), r= (3- 10p), w=(11- 15i). No significant change, conclusion remains.	SUF
A080	Circaetus gallicus	BY	IN MOD	E part	47	(47C)	BiE3: Br= (p530-700). SDF: r= (112- 193p). 8 new sites in the E part and more new sites and additions to existing sites across country. Current population coverage 21- 27%. Possibly sufficient?	SUF?
A080	Circaetus gallicus	MD	IN MOD		3	(2B 1C)	BiE3: Br= population size not given. SDF: w=(10- 12i). Species should be more commonly distributed, at least in the steppic part of the country (see also UA sites across border)? And surely the species is not wintering in Moldova, as indicated in SDFs.	IN MOD/CD?
A080	Circaetus gallicus	UA	IN MOD	N and SE	136	(4B 96C 36D)	BiE3: Br= (p160-300) SDF: c=(505- 418i), r=(117-214p). Added to many new and existing sites, including locations in the north and south-east. Current breeding population coverage is 71-73%. Possibly sufficient.	SUF?
A081	Circus aeruginosus	BY	IN MOD	Central and E part	69	(4B 59C 6D)	BiE3: Br= (b6000-9000). SDF: r= (569-1086p). Many new sites in the central and eastern part thus geographical coverage is improved. Despite low coverage (9-12%), this must be common and widespread species.	SUF?

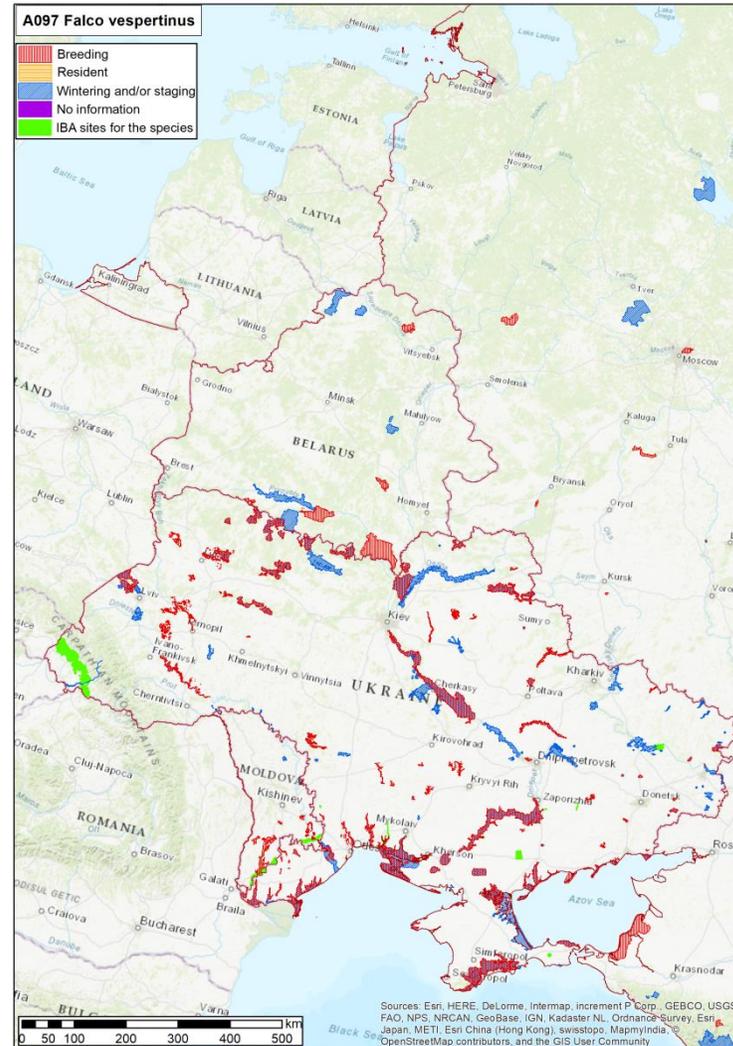


Documents: maps

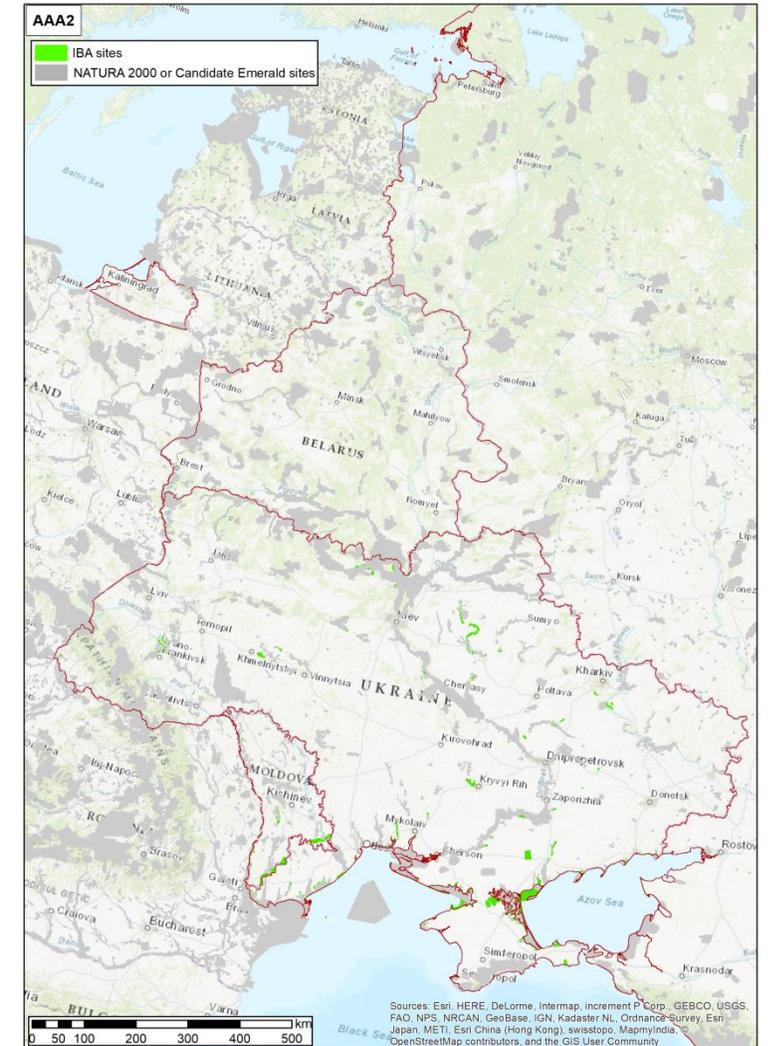
Change map



Population status map



Non-res 6 species map



Introduction to evaluations: possible conclusions

Code	Meaning	Action required
SUF	Sufficient	No further sites needed
IN MIN	Insufficient – minor	More sites required but habitat/species is present on sites already proposed for other habitats/species
IN MOD	Insufficient - moderate	One or a few additional sites (or maybe extension to sites) required.
IN MAJOR	Insufficient- major	No sites proposed at present and a significant effort required
SCI RES	Scientific Reserve	Further study required
CD	Correction of data	Data needs to be corrected / completed



Introduction to evaluations: how much is enough ?

- No numeric criteria for decision-making
- The '20-60%' principle is only a guide
- More sites needed for rare and threatened species
- Less sites for common and widespread species
- Decisions made as a result of discussion and exchange of opinions
- Case-to-case approach

Introduction to evaluations: criteria

To reach the aims of Convention, the selection of sites for each species and habitat must:

- represent sites from the entire **distribution range** at a national level and bio-geographical level;
- it should reflect the **ecological variation** of the habitat and of the species (genetic) within the bio-geographical region;
- it should be well-adapted to the specific conservation needs, in particular to those related to the **distribution patterns** of the considered species or habitat type;
- if the first 3 conditions are met, it will be expected that site proposals will include **significant proportions** of habitat area and species populations within the Emerald network versus the overall national resource

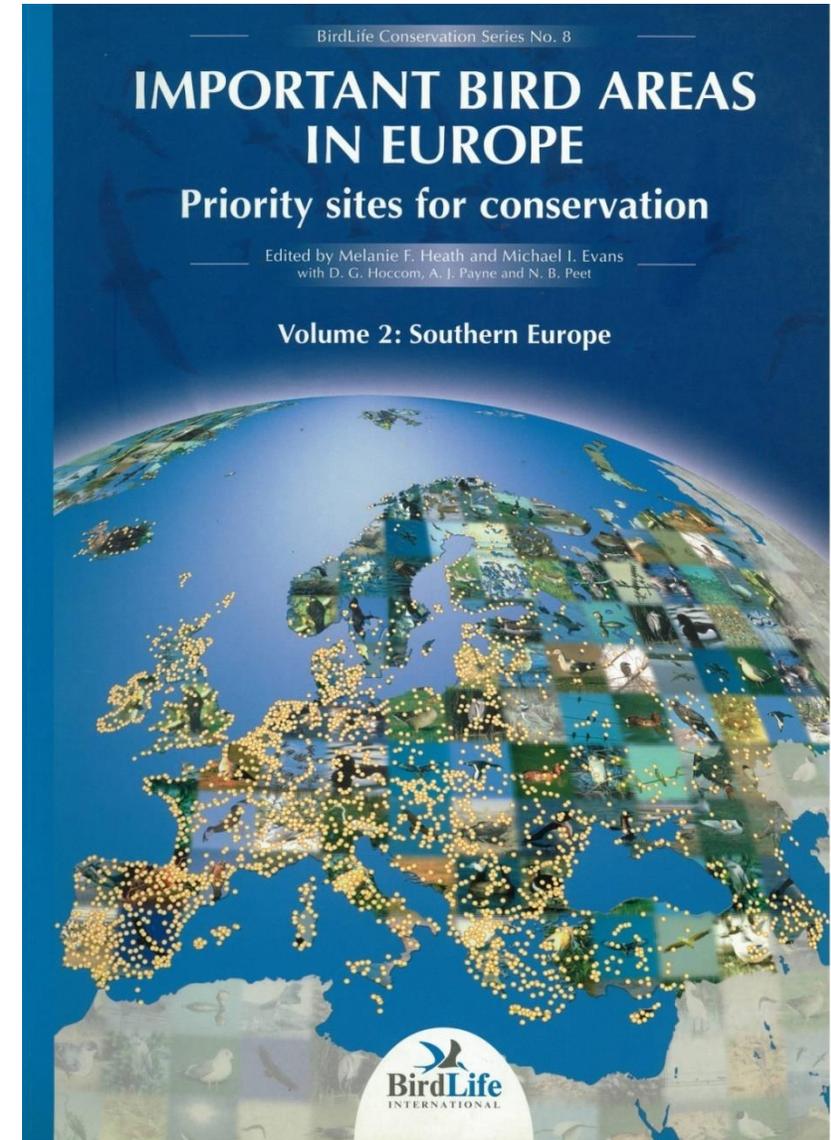
Differences in bird evaluations

- No bio-geographical regions
- Evaluations done taking into consideration different stages of life-cycle (breeding, migration, wintering)
- Important Bird Area inventory taken as a main reference
- Operating mainly with numeric data
- Not only species listed in Res. 6 considered (also 'regularly occurring migratory birds')

Differences in bird evaluations

Three additional criteria for regularly occurring migratory birds not in the Resolution 6:

- **AAA1:** The site is known to hold, on a regular basis, 20,000 or more waterbirds of one or more species or 10,000 or more pairs of seabirds for one or more species (IBA criterion A4iii);
- **AAA2:** The site is known to hold, 1% or more of flyway population or other distinct population of a waterbird species or other congregatory species (IBA criteria B1i and B1iii);
- **AAA3:** The site is a 'bottleneck site' hosting 5000 or more storks, 3000 or more raptors and cranes (IBA criterion B1iv).



Problems encountered

- Lack of explanation on scientific reserves (especially in cases where no action followed).
- Although countries have obviously tried to systematically record population sizes at site level, there are quite often mismatch of population units (e.g. «i» together with «p») which makes it difficult to calculate population proportion within Emerald network)
- Misuse of population type categories. For example species sometimes indicated as breeding in locations where it cannot occur.
- For UA many zeros for «max» population assessment thus sometimes «min» population appears to be higher than «max».
- Difficult to assess the effects of site reduction at individual species level

Problems encountered

- Recycled site codes. When the site is deleted, the site code should not be re-used for another (new) site.
- Only few duplicated records.

In general data quality and completeness has much increased since 2015!

Seminar organisation: participants

- Country delegations
- Council of Europe
- Evaluators
- NGOs
- Independent experts
- Observers

Seminar organisation: order for speaking

Chair: **Bern Convention Bureau/Secretariat**

1. **Experts/evaluators:** main facts about species/habitat and a proposed conclusion
2. **Government** (country delegation)
3. **NGOs**
4. **Independent experts** (if appropriate)
5. **Bern Convention Bureau/Secretariat:** conclusion

Seminar organisation: time management

- Still large number of species to discuss
- Therefore ... we should not waste time where conclusion is obvious and there are no objections;
- Where there has been no change since the previous seminar, no discussion is needed unless important new knowledge has become available
- As a rule we shall not re-open previously sufficient decisions (although they are in the draft conclusions) unless there is a significant reduction in site number and size
- ...please keep strictly to the subject – make your point clearly and what conclusion you propose!
- The agenda can be adapted if required and possible

Thank You



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