

***The Bern Convention adopts a Strategic Plan to guide its progress towards 2030 targets on nature conservation***

**Strasbourg, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023:** last Friday, on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023, a landmark moment occurred when the Standing Committee of the [Bern Convention](#) on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats adopted a [Strategic Plan to 2030](#). Although plans and targets had existed over the Convention's 44-year existence, it is the first time that such a comprehensive and streamlined text with goals, indicators and targets has been put together, and it follows the example of other environmental institutions which have recently adopted strategies, notably the European Commission's Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 2030/2050 (GBF).

The Plan was 3 years in the making after suffering delays due to the Covid pandemic and awaiting finalisation of the GBF in order to be streamlined, but now Parties to the Standing Committee have agreed to work towards implementing the Plan at national and pan-European level: it will surely be worth the wait.



*43<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee, Strasbourg*



The Strategic Plan follows the adoption in 2021 by the Committee of the [Vision for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030](#) and its 4 goals:

**GOAL 1:** The area, connectivity, integrity and resilience of natural and semi-natural ecosystems is increased, including through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures covering at least 30% of the land and of the sea areas.

**GOAL 2:** The conservation status of threatened species is improved, the abundance of native species has increased, and human-induced extinctions have been halted.

**GOAL 3:** The contributions of wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment are valued, maintained and enhanced.

**GOAL 4:** Sufficient resources are available and are used efficiently to achieve all goals and targets in the Plan.

**Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI, Chairperson of the Standing Committee**, noted that “Now the work will start on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Bern Convention will keep track of the progress made as well as see how different instruments of the Convention can help Parties in its implementation”.

**Mr Mikaël POUTIERS, Secretary of the Bern Convention** remarked that “The adopted Strategic Plan will facilitate cooperation work among Parties to the Bern Convention and ultimately help for a better protection of biodiversity in Europe and beyond”.

A [Recommendation](#) was also adopted alongside with the Strategic Plan to guide its implementation, including through mid-term and end-term reviews. A Working Group shall also be formed in 2024 made up of Contracting Parties and Observer organisations to oversee the Plan’s realisation.