

The Bern Convention will participate in the World Forum for Democracy to answer the question: can democracy save the environment?

The World Forum for Democracy is a unique platform organised by the Council of Europe in the city of Strasbourg, where political decision-makers and activists debate solutions to key challenges for democracies.

- The Bern Convention will be present at the World Forum for Democracy in the form of two activities.
- The first is a Forum Talk on the topic of “Linking Biodiversity, Climate Change and a Healthy Environment” that will be held on the **9th of November at 11.30 a.m. (CET)** at the Palais de l’Europe.
- Two initiatives supported by the Bern Convention will participate in a Forum Lab on the theme “Better together: Engaging communities for nature conservation and protection” that will take place on the **9th of November at 2.30 p.m. (CET)**, also at the Palais de l’Europe.
- Both events will also be livestreamed on the day.

Strasbourg, 8-10th November 2021 – The Council of Europe launches the 9th World Forum for Democracy, which aims to strengthen the foundations of democratic societies by encouraging citizens to participate in open debates on environmental challenges.

The Bern Convention will participate in the Forum in the form of two separate activities. The first event is a Forum Talk organised on the **9th of November at 11:30 a.m. (CET)** called “Linking Biodiversity, Climate Change and a Healthy Environment”, focusing on how the connections between the concepts of biodiversity, climate change and the environment can be made accessible to all.

In addition, two initiatives supported by the Bern Convention will present their work at a Forum Lab titled “Better together: Engaging communities for nature conservation and protection” that takes place on the same day **at 2.30 p.m. (CET)**, focusing on the importance of engaging communities to conserve and protect nature. The participating initiatives are the Irish Burren Programme that encourages and rewards local farmers for the sustainable management of their lands, and NACRES, an NGO that coordinated the establishment of the Emerald Network in Georgia along with the Bern Convention and the Georgian Ministry of Environmental Protection.

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