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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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**Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological  
Networks**

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**PROGRESS IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE REVISED CALENDAR FOR  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMERALD NETWORK OF AREAS OF  
SPECIAL CONSERVATION INTEREST  
2011-2020**

*Document prepared by  
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**ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMERALD NETWORK CALENDAR.**

The calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network (2011 – 2020) adopted by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention provided a road map to Contracting Parties and observer States for setting up the Emerald Network and ensure it is functional for ensuring the conservation in the long term of the species and habitats protected under the Bern Convention.

The calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network was also complemented in December 2016 by the Three dimensional road map for achieving a fully operational Emerald Network in 7 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and South Caucasus [T-PVS/PA \(2016\) 10](#) which describes the key steps to be undertaken by national authorities to achieve a complete and fully in the seven countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus.

Understanding what has been done so far and what is the actual status of development of the network is necessary to identify gaps and prioritise the work of Parties/observer States and of the Secretariat of the Bern Convention in the coming two years in order to meet the objectives of the calendar.

By highlighting in **green** the achievements, in **red** the outstanding actions and in **yellow** the on-going and/or rolling actions, the calendar shows that:

- African Parties but also Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco or Turkey have not begun setting up the Emerald Network.
- Despite the commitment taken by South East European Parties in 2017 to deliver in 2019 new databases based on the outcomes of the projects on Natura 2000 they are benefiting from, no progress in the implementation of the Emerald Network could be noticed in the Region.
- While Emerald Network sites are present in 14 Contracting Parties and one observer State, only 6 Parties formally adopted Emerald Network sites as of December 2018 and many countries remain stuck after the biogeographical process instead of addressing the conclusions of the evaluation and proposing their Emerald Network sites for formal adoption.
- By the end of 2019 15 biogeographical evaluation seminars took place which enabled to assess the capacity of the network to ensure a favourable conservation of the species and habitats protected under the Bern Convention. Significant progress was achieved in recent years but still the objective of the network is not achieved yet. Consequently, further sites should be proposed even in the countries which have formally adopted Emerald Network sites.
- Unless the Secretariat was not informed, it is likely that none of the Parties which formally adopted Emerald Network sites have already designated their sites at national level and set conservation objectives.

These conclusions should be seen as incentives for Contracting Parties and observer States to step up their efforts in setting up, developing and completing the Emerald Network until 2020. An overall and in-depth evaluation of the implementation of the calendar will be carried out in 2020 which will feed into the post 2020 road map of the Emerald Network.

## Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network 2011-2020

Timing	Strategic issues	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
2011-2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update Res. 6 (1998) and Res. 4 (1996); Submission to the Standing Committee at its 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting (2011-2012), according to timely presented proposals.</li> <li>Collection of background information on presence and distribution of species and habitats in collaboration with EEA.</li> <li>Development of guidelines on management, monitoring and reporting tools in line with existing Natura 2000's tools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiation of a Pilot projects for Tunisia;</li> <li>Implementation of a second pilot project for Morocco;</li> <li>Feasibility analysis for a second pilot project in Turkey and/or possible planning for completion of Phase I;</li> <li>Negotiation of completion of Phase I in Bosnia-Herzegovina</li> <li>Completion of Phase I for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova through the ENP project by the end of 2011;</li> <li>Fulfilment of 80 % of Phase I for Ukraine;</li> <li>Fulfilment of at least 50 % of Phase I for Belarus and the European part of the Russian Federation;</li> <li>Completion of Phase I for Switzerland, Norway and Iceland;</li> <li>Negotiations for the identification of sites in the countries which have not been participating in the pilot project's programme: Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Kazakhstan (European part);</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of proposed Emerald sites in 6 West-Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Serbia; gap analysis;</li> <li>Negotiation with West-Balkan countries concerning possible designation of new ASCIs;</li> <li>Start of assessment of proposed Emerald sites for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova (2012);</li> <li>Start pre-evaluation of the first set of proposed Emerald sites for countries asking for it (Switzerland, Norway)</li> </ul>	
2013-2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalisation of collection of background information on species and habitats of European interest.</li> <li>Drafting and adoption of monitoring tools and management plans, based on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuation of the pilot project in Tunisia;</li> <li>Completion of the Emerald Network in Morocco;</li> <li>Implementation of a full Emerald project in Turkey;</li> <li>Completion of Phase I for Belarus, the European part of the Russian Federation and Ukraine;</li> <li>Development of principles of the establishment of the Emerald Network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of the assessment of the proposed Emerald sites in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Georgia</li> <li>Start of assessment of proposed sites in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in coordination with the evaluation for sites in Moldova and South Caucasus, if appropriate;</li> <li>Assessment of proposed Emerald sites in Switzerland, Iceland and Norway.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official designation of the Emerald Network in the West-Balkan</li> <li>Implementation of management, monitoring and reporting tools in the West-Balkan area.</li> </ul>

	international guidelines; setting-up of a coherent Pan-European Ecological Network;	(as Core Areas of the PEEN) in Asian parts of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, in Kirghizistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan (further activities in this field of actions will be planned if appropriate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of proposed Emerald sites in other countries according to achievements in Phase I (Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Kazakhstan (the European part))</li> </ul>	
2015-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuation of drafting and implementing management plans and monitoring for designated ASCI's.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalisation of the evaluation of proposed Emerald sites in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine</li> <li>Assessment of proposed Emerald sites in participating African countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designation of the Emerald Network in Moldova and South Caucasus;</li> <li>Start designation of Emerald sites in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine;</li> <li>Designation of the Emerald Network in Norway, Iceland and Switzerland;</li> <li>Re-assessment of all agreed Emerald sites according to new knowledge.</li> <li>Designation of the Emerald Network in other countries according to achievements in Phase II (Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Kazakhstan (the European part))</li> </ul>
2017-2019				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication of the lists of the Emerald Network of areas of special conservation interest;</li> <li>Finalise the designation of Emerald sites in the whole Pan-European area, as well as in participating African countries;</li> <li>Full assessment of the Pan-European Emerald Network in view of the long-term survival of the species and habitats of European concern;</li> <li>Assessment of the adequacy of the Bern Convention's Appendices and Resolutions No. 4 and No.6</li> </ul>
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First reporting exercise on the Emerald Network implementation for the period 2013-2018, as foreseen in Resolution No. 8 (2012)</li> </ul>			
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest is fully operational to guarantee the long-term survival of all species and habitats of European Interest, including appropriate management, monitoring and reporting tools, compatible with NATURA2000</li> <li>Procedures for continuous updating of the data and evaluation of the long-term survival of the species and habitats have been put in place</li> </ul>			