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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

39th meeting
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**THE BERN CONVENTION'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND
THE AICHI TARGETS**

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

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Summary conclusions

The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (CETS No. 104), hereafter the Bern Convention, is an international regional treaty in the field of nature conservation, covering most of the natural heritage of the European continent, and extending to some African states. In 2019, it has 51 Contracting Parties, including the European Union. The Bern Convention aims to conserve wild flora and fauna species and their habitats, especially those whose conservation requires co-operation between several countries.

In 2009, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the signature of the Convention, the Standing Committee to the Convention adopted the “[*Bern Declaration on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Europe: 2010 and beyond*](#)”, reaffirming the critical role played by the Bern Convention to facilitate the co-ordinated implementation of global biodiversity obligations in Europe, including relevant parts of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Convention on Migratory Species and related agreements; and the Ramsar Convention on wetlands.

In 2019, the Bern Convention celebrates the 40th anniversary of its signature. For 40 years, it has initiated and produced extensive guidance and standards under different forms: many species’ actions plans, strategies, codes of conduct, over 200 recommendations, resolutions, etc., to help its Parties improve national policies and preserve their natural heritage, combining concrete and practical action on the conservation and management of key species and sites with more strategic instruments. In this sense, the Bern Convention plays a unique and complementary role to other biodiversity policy instruments, treaties and agreements.

More specifically to the period of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the “Aichi 2020 Targets” adopted by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Bern Convention adopted 51¹ Recommendations on specific challenges facing biodiversity and in particular: 1) on invasive alien species, 2) on sustainable hunting, 3) on the conservation of large carnivores, of plant species, of invertebrates, on herpetofauna and of wild bird species, 4) on protected areas and ecological networks, 5) on the linkages between biodiversity and climate change, and on the special needs and vulnerability of European island biodiversity. To support the development and drafting of its numerous guidance and policy tools, the Convention counted on the support of its dedicated thematic Groups of Experts², composed of government designated representatives, NGOs and the scientific community and of its decision-making bodies, an elected Bureau and a Standing Committee (Conference of the Parties).

Since 2011, the Bern Convention initiated the setting-up of its pan-European network of sites, called the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. Thanks to extensive capacity building and technical assistance to national authorities, in 7 years the Emerald Network under the Bern Convention reached 3,260³ Emerald Network sites, representing 725,000 km² and covering on average 15% of countries’ national territory in the 16 countries⁴ where it is implemented.

¹ Figure from November 2019 (subject to update).

² Groups of Experts under the Bern Convention : on the conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles - Marine turtles, on the Conservation of Plants, on the Conservation of Birds, on the Conservation of Invertebrates, on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, on Invasive Alien Species, on Large Carnivores, on Biodiversity and Climate Change and on European Island Biological Diversity.

³ Figure from November 2019 (subject to update).

⁴ The concerned countries are Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland and Ukraine and the Russian Federation, as an Observer State to the Convention. The European Union’s Habitats and Birds Directives are the means by which the EU meets its obligations under the Bern Convention, and the EU Natura 2000 network is the contribution from EU Member States to the Bern Convention’s Emerald Network.

In 2018, the Bern Convention further developed the reporting obligations contained in one of its Resolutions relevant for the Emerald network of Areas of Special Conservation interest – Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the national designation of adopted Emerald sites and the implementation of management, monitoring and reporting measures. The Convention decided that the first reporting exercise on Resolution No. 8 (2012), covering the period 2013 - 2018 will be focused on the conservation status of a selection of species and habitats targeted by the Emerald Network. The results of this reporting should be available at the end of 2020.

In 2016, the Bern Convention started to design and implement various communication campaigns, focussing on particular biodiversity challenges and aimed in particular at the public at large and raising its awareness, but also at specific target groups such as pet owners, nature enthusiasts, urban populations, Zoos and researchers, etc. Since 2016, the Convention implemented social media campaigns such as [The last tweet](#), [Not Alone](#), [If you like it craft it](#), [Think outside the box](#) on issues such as invasive alien species, climate change, biosecurity, etc.

Out of the overall 190 complaints received for possible violation of the Bern Convention by some of its Contracting Parties since the creation of the case-file system mechanism in 1982, 74 were received in the period since January 2011. This shows an important uptake of the case-file system by national and European NGOs and in many cases citizens, in particular following the adoption of the first Emerald network sites at national level in the Contracting Parties.

In the implementation period of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2030, the Bern Convention continued to use one of its main “added values”, namely the ability and flexibility to tackle complex and sensitive issues long before they are addressed in legally binding instruments across Europe and at national level. The broad coverage of relevant biodiversity issues by the Bern Convention, leading to concrete guidance and strategic documents, together with the active partnerships and cooperation developed over the years with other biodiversity conventions, the scientific community, and non-governmental organisations, continued to be one of its main strengths in the period of implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

1. The Bern Convention in the international legal framework on biological diversity

The Bern Convention was the first international treaty to deal with all aspects of nature conservation and thus it is not specialised like other treaties in this field aimed specifically at a type of habitat (e.g. the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands), a group of species (e.g. the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species), or a particular conservation problem (e.g. the Washington Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species). It protects both species and habitats and brings countries together to decide upon how to act on nature conservation and promote sustainable development.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), much like the Bern Convention, aimed to draw up an overall strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife and biodiversity and in this sense the Bern Convention can be mentioned as a precedent to the CBD.

While the Bern Convention’s main limit is geographical, as its territory of application is constrained to Europe and a few states of northern Africa, its scope is broad and developed around three main aims: a) to conserve wild flora and fauna and natural habitats; b) to promote co-operation between States; c) to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species (Art. 1⁵).

⁵ Available at the following web address: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/104>

The Bern Convention establishes very strict obligations for Parties on the protection of natural habitats and on the protection of a large number of species mentioned in its three appendices. More concretely, its Parties are committed to: (1) Promoting national policies for the conservation of wild flora and fauna, and their natural habitats; (2) Having regard for conservation in regional planning policies and pollution control; (3) Promoting education and information; and (4) Encouraging and co-ordinating research related to the purposes of the Convention.

In addition, the Convention promotes co-operation of its Parties through a number of mechanisms, including the organisation of technical groups (called Groups of experts) and the adoption of recommendations, guidelines, codes of conduct and action plans.

The Convention is managed by a Conference of the Parties called “Standing Committee” which includes all Contracting Parties as well as observer States and organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, at the national and international level. It meets annually at the Council of Europe premises in Strasbourg (France) and adopts recommendations concerning measures that should be taken to achieve the Convention’s objectives and improve its effectiveness. It also monitors the implementation of the Convention and provides guidance on its further development. As non-governmental organisations participate very actively in Standing Committee meetings, the Committee has become an important forum in Europe for discussion concerning issues of interest for European biodiversity.

2. The Bern Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

Already in 2000, the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, through the adoption of [*Resolution No. 7 \(2000\) on the medium-term strategic development of the Convention on the Conservation of European wildlife and Natural Habitats*](#), decided to set a role for the Convention in supporting the implementation of the world targets and strategic priorities for biodiversity set at the level of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Moreover, the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, through the “[*Bern Declaration on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Europe: 2010 and beyond*](#)” adopted on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the signature of the Convention in 2009:

- Reaffirmed the critical role played by the Bern Convention to facilitate the co-ordinated implementation of global biodiversity obligations in Europe, including relevant parts of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Convention on Migratory Species and related agreements; and the Ramsar Convention on wetlands;
- Recognised “*the role of the Bern Convention to promote coherence in biodiversity policies across the Pan-European region and the African countries involved*”;
- Urged Contracting Parties, and invited Observer States “*to use the Bern Convention as a fundamental instrument to implement the global post-2010 targets*”.

At the 10th Conference of the Parties to the CBD in 2010, governments adopted a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the “Aichi 2020 Targets”. In its Decision X/2, the CBD Conference of the Parties urged parties to “*develop national and regional targets, using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets, as a flexible framework, in accordance with national priorities and capacities and taking into account both the global targets and the status and trends of biological diversity in the country, and the resources provided through the strategy for resource mobilization, with a view to*

contributing to collective global efforts to reach the global targets, and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;”.

“COP 10 also urged regional organizations to consider the development or updating of regional biodiversity strategies, as appropriate, including agreeing on regional targets, as a means of complementing and supporting national actions and of contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;”.

In 2010, at its 30th meeting, the Standing Committee reconfirmed the Bern Convention’s relevance and role as a regional pan-European instrument to implement many aspects of the commitments taken at the CBD Nagoya COP 10. The Committee stressed again that the provisions contained in the Bern Convention, together with the Resolutions and Recommendations of the Standing Committee which provide their interpretation and extend the reach of the Convention, form a tight tissue of international law and soft law which is coherent with many of the aims and objectives of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and in particular Aichi Targets 1, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15.

Furthermore, at its 31st meeting, in November 2011, the Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat and the Bureau to continue identifying priorities to implement the CBD Biodiversity Strategic Plan under the Bern Convention’s focus and remit and in particular to foster European work on invasive alien species, adaptation of biodiversity to climate change, the setting up of the Emerald Network, the monitoring of Species Action Plans, the conservation of invertebrates and the management of large carnivore populations on the whole continent. A document⁶ prepared for the 31st Standing Committee meeting, presented a detailed proposal on how the Bern Convention can contribute to the implementation of some of the 2020 Biodiversity Aichi Targets in Europe.

3. Achievements in the period 2010-2019 supporting the implementation of the Aichi targets

The standard setting and monitoring work of the Convention directly supports the implementation of 7 out of the 20 Aichi Targets. With the exception of data on the Emerald Network, it is however difficult to quantify this contribution. This document thus rather provides a complete overview of the various policy documents, recommendations and voluntary guidance documents and Action Plans developed, adopted and monitored by the Convention in the period since 2010.


Table 1 below summarises these developments, referencing them to the relevant Aichi target it is considered they support. In addition, the table provides, where relevant, information on the specific reports and analysis developed for supporting the policy guidance and voluntary legal tools adopted by the Convention’s Standing Committee.

The table also provides information on the monitoring implemented for measuring progress in the implementation of the Convention’s obligations, policy and guidance. Two specific reporting obligations were developed in the period of interest of this report – the Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds and the Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the conservation status of species and habitats targeted by the Emerald network of areas of Special Conservation Interest.



Additional regular monitoring of the implementation of standards is undergone by the Convention’s thematic Groups of Experts, through separate reporting questionnaires. This thematic reporting is flexible and as flexible as possible, as it is mainly aimed at supporting the development of additional standards and facilitating the exchange of good practices and lessons learned among Parties. Such reports are also referenced in Table 1.


⁶ Document T-PVS (2011) 17 - Implementing the Aichi 2020 Targets in Europe: the role of the Bern Convention

Table 1: Developments under the Bern Convention since 2010, supporting the implementation of the Aichi targets


Relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets	Competent Bern Convention Group(s) of Experts	Recommendations, voluntary guidance and tools and communication initiatives	Relevant Strategic documents and specialised reports/analysis	Monitoring of implementation at national level
 <p>Target 1 - By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p>All Bern Convention Groups of Experts⁷</p>	<p>Recommendation No. 153 (2011) on the Charter on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity on European Islands</p> <p>Recommendation No. 168 (2013) on the European Charter of Fungi-gathering and biodiversity</p> <p>Recommendation No. 187 (2016) on communicating on climate change and biodiversity</p> <p>Recommendation No. 192 (2017) on mainstreaming a gender equality perspective in the implementation of the Convention as well as in the work of the Convention Secretariat</p> <p>Communication campaigns: The last tweet - on IKB issues, Not Alone - on Climate change, If you like it craft it - on IAS, Think outside the box - on biosecurity</p>	<p>/</p>	<p>/</p>


⁷ The main Groups of Experts under the Bern Convention are the following: on the Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles - Marine turtles, on the Conservation of Plants, on the Conservation of Birds, on the Conservation of Invertebrates, on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, on Invasive Alien Species, on Large Carnivores, on Biodiversity and Climate Change and on European Island Biological Diversity. In addition, ad hoc Group of Experts are created for specific issues, such as the Expert Group on the eradication of the Rudy Duck, Working Group on the elaboration of a European Charter on Recreational fishing and Biodiversity, Ad-hoc Expert Group on Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012), etc.

 <p>Target 5 - By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p>	<p>Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks</p> <p>Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas</p>	<p>Recommendation No. 180 (2015) on improving the conservation of nature outside protected areas proper</p> <p>Recommendation No. 181 (2015) on the future of the European Diploma for Protected Areas</p>	<p>Revised Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (2011-2020)</p>	<p>Reporting format on the conservation status of species and habitats targeted by the Emerald network [(Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012))]</p> <p>Annual reporting in the frame of the European Diploma for Protected Areas</p>
 <p>Target 6 - By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on</p>	<p>Working Group on the elaboration of a European Charter on Recreational fishing and Biodiversity</p> <p>Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species</p>	<p>Recommendation No. 150 (2010) on the European Charter on Recreational fishing and Biodiversity</p> <p>Recommendation No. 170 (2014) on the European Code of Conduct on Recreational Fishing and Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>Recommendation No. 199 (2018) on the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of the sturgeon</p>	<p>Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of the sturgeon</p>	<p>/</p>

stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.				
 <p>Target 9 - By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>Expert Group on the eradication of the Ruddy Duck</p>	<p>Recommendation No. 149 (2010) on the eradication of the Ruddy Duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>) in the Western Palearctic</p> <p>Recommendation No. 154 (2011) on the European Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>Recommendation No. 158 (2012) on Conservation translocations under changing climatic conditions</p> <p>Recommendation No. 160 (2012) on the European Code of Conduct for Botanical Gardens on Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>Recommendation No. 161 (2012) on the European Code of Conduct for Zoological Gardens and Aquaria on Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>Recommendation No. 166 (2013) on the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>Recommendation No. 167 (2013) on the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>Recommendation No. 170 (2014) on the European Code of Conduct on Recreational Fishing and Invasive Alien Species</p>	<p>European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>European Code of Conduct on Horticulture and Invasive Alien Plants (2008) - Illustrated version (2011)</p> <p>European Code of Conduct on International Travel and Invasive Alien Species (2017)</p> <p>European Code of Conduct for Invasive Alien Trees (2017)</p> <p>European Code of Conduct on Pets and IAS (2011) - Illustrated version (2016)</p> <p>European Code of Conduct for Botanic Gardens on Invasive Alien Species (2012)</p> <p>European Code of Conduct on Zoological Gardens and</p>	<p>Analysis of the 2019 national reports on the implementation of the European IAS Strategy and Codes of Conduct</p> <p>Compilation of national reports on the implementation of the European IAS Strategy - 2017</p> <p>Compilation of national reports on the implementation of the European Strategy on IAS - 2015</p>


		<p>Recommendation No. 179 (2015) on action to promote and complement the implementation of EU Regulation 1143/2014 on invasive alien species</p> <p>Recommendation No. 185 (2016) on the eradication of the ruddy duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>) in the Western Palaearctic by 2020</p> <p>Recommendation No. 186 (2016) on the conservation and recovery of the osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>) in Europe</p> <p>Recommendation No. 188 (2016) on the European Code of Conduct on Recreational Boating and Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>Recommendation No. 189 (2016) on the control of the American mink (<i>Neovison vison</i>) in Europe</p> <p>Recommendation No. 193 (2017) on the European Code of Conduct for Invasive Alien Trees</p> <p>Recommendation No. 194 (2017) on the European Code of Conduct on International Travel and Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>Recommendation No. 195 (2017) on the control and eradication of invasive alien species on islands</p>	<p>Aquaria and IAS (2012) - Illustrated version (2016) European Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS (2013) - Illustrated version (2016)</p> <p>European Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS (2013) - Illustrated version (2014)</p> <p>European Code of Conduct on Recreational Fishing and IAS (2014)</p> <p>European Code of Conduct on Recreational Boating and IAS (2016)</p>	
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 <p>Target 11 - By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p>Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks</p> <p>Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas</p>	<p>Recommendation N° 157 (2011) on the status of candidate Emerald sites and guidelines on the criteria for their adoption</p> <p>Resolution No. 8 (2012) on the national designation of adopted Emerald sites and the implementation of management, monitoring and reporting measures</p> <p>Recommendation No. 167 (2013) on the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>Revised Criteria for assessing the National Lists of proposed Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs) at biogeographical level and procedure for examining and approving Emerald candidate sites</p> <p>Recommendation No. 180 (2015) on improving the conservation of nature outside protected areas proper</p> <p>Recommendation No. 181 (2015) on the Future of the European Diploma for Protected Areas</p> <p>Delineation of Marine regions in the framework of the Bern Convention</p> <p>Guidance on detecting, reporting, assessing and responding to changes in the ecological character of Emerald Network sites.</p>	<p>Revised Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (2011-2020)</p> <p>Three dimensional Road Map for achieving a fully operational Emerald Network in 7 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and South Caucasus</p> <p>Report on the survey on climate change and protected areas in Bern Convention Contracting parties</p>	<p>National reports by the countries on the progress and achievements in the implementation of the Emerald Network calendar 2011-2020</p> <p>Progress in the enforcement of the Revised calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network (2011-2020)</p> <p>List of officially adopted Emerald sites (November 2018)</p> <p>List of officially nominated candidate Emerald sites (November 2018)</p> <p>Progress of the sufficiency of the Emerald Network in 2018</p> <p>Consolidated Emerald network sufficiency conclusions following the 2017 and 2018 biogeographical evaluation seminars</p> <p>Annual reporting in the frame of the European</p>
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		Flowchart of steps to be taken to assess, report and respond to changes in ecological character of Emerald Network sites		Diploma for Protected Areas Reporting format on the conservation status of species and habitats targeted by the Emerald network [(Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012))]
 Target 12 - By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	All Bern Convention Groups of Experts ⁸	<p>Recommendation No. 148 (2010) on the conservation of large carnivores in the Caucasus</p> <p>Recommendation No. 155 (2011) on the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds</p> <p>Recommendation No. 156 (2011) on the implementation of an Action Plan for the conservation of the White-tailed Sea Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>) along the Danube</p> <p>Recommendation No. 164 (2013) on the Implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2020, on the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds</p> <p>Recommendation No. 165 (2013) on the implementation of twenty-one new or revised</p>	<p>Tunis Action Plan (2013-2020) for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds and several bird Species Action Plans</p> <p>European Strategy for Plant Conservation (2008-2014)</p> <p>Revised Calendar for the implementation of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (2011-2020)</p>	<p>First assessment of national Scoreboard reporting by Parties to the Bern Convention and members of the CMS/MIKT on IKB</p> <p>Reporting format on the conservation status of species and habitats targeted by the Emerald network [(Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012))]</p>

⁸ The main Groups of Experts under the Bern Convention are the following: on the Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles - Marine turtles, on the Conservation of Plants, on the Conservation of Birds, on the Conservation of Invertebrates, on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, on Invasive Alien Species, on Large Carnivores, on Biodiversity and Climate Change and on European Island Biological Diversity. In addition, ad hoc Group of Experts are created for specific issues, such as the Expert Group on the eradication of the Rudy Duck, Working Group on the elaboration of a European Charter on Recreational fishing and Biodiversity, Ad-hoc Expert Group on Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012), etc.

		<p>action plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area</p> <p>Recommendation No. 162 (2012) on the conservation of large carnivores' population in Europe requesting special conservation action</p> <p>Recommendation No. 163 (2012) on the management of expanding populations of large carnivores in Europe</p> <p>Recommendation No. 173 (2014) on hybridisation between wild grey wolves (<i>Canis lupus</i>) and domestic dogs (<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>)</p> <p>Recommendation No. 176 (2015) on the prevention and control of the <i>Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans chytrid fungus</i></p> <p>Recommendation No. 177 (2015) on the gravity factors and sentencing principles for the evaluation of offences against birds, and in particular the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds</p> <p>Recommendation No. 196 (2017) on the establishment of a Scoreboard for measuring progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds</p> <p>Recommendation No. 197 (2017) on biosafety measures for the prevention of the spread of amphibian and reptile species diseases</p>		<p>Progress of the sufficiency of the Emerald Network in 2018</p> <p>Compilation of national reports for 2017 on the conservation of amphibians and reptiles</p>
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		Recommendation No. 198 (2018) on the use of artificial feeding as a management tool of large carnivore populations and their prey, with a particular emphasis on the brown bear		
 Target 15 - By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	Group of Experts on Climate Change and Biodiversity	<p>Recommendation No. 145 (2010) on guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change in mountain regions</p> <p>Recommendation No. 146 (2010) on guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change in European islands</p> <p>Recommendation No. 147 (2010) on guidance for Parties on wildland fires, biodiversity and climate change</p> <p>Recommendation No. 152 (2011) on Marine Biodiversity and Climate Change</p> <p>Recommendation No. 158 (2012) on Conservation translocations under changing climatic conditions</p> <p>Recommendation No. 159 (2012) on the effective implementation of guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change</p> <p>Recommendation No. 180 (2015) on improving the conservation of nature outside protected areas proper</p> <p>Recommendation No. 187 (2016) on communicating on climate change and biodiversity</p>	<p>Programme of Work on Climatic change and biodiversity conservation</p> <p>Report on the survey on climate change and protected areas in Bern Convention Contracting parties</p>	<p>An analysis of the implementation of Recommendations made by the Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change (2006-2011)</p>

For the purposes of monitoring the implementation of the legal obligations deriving from the Convention, legal analysis reports on the implementation of the Convention in specific countries are also regularly commissioned. Two such reports were developed in the reference period.

In addition, the two core monitoring mechanisms of the Convention, its case-file system and the mechanism for the renewal and award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas, are at the origin of country specific Recommendations adopted by the Bern Convention. These deal with specific sites or species/habitats populations at risk or with areas of importance for the conservation of biological diversity in Europe. The proposal of the competent Group of Specialists under the Bern Convention to award/renew the Diploma is accompanied by recommendations and, where appropriate, conditions to improve the management of the area or the system for protecting it. These country specific Recommendations/Resolutions are a tool for supporting efforts at national level for ensuring the appropriate national and international legislation and the respect of high management and conservation standards.

Table 2 below presents all country specific legal reports and country specific Recommendations adopted since 2010, as well as all Resolutions adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, under the advice of the Bern Convention Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for protected areas, for the renewal and award of the EDPA to specific areas in Europe since 2010.

Table 2: Country Specific reports and Recommendations adopted in the frame of the Bern Convention case-file system and Council of Europe CM Resolutions for the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

Country	Bern Convention country-specific Recommendation / Case file system	Council of Europe CM Resolution in the frame of the European Diploma for Protected Areas	Country specific report on the Convention's implementation
Albania	Recommendation No. 202 (2018) on the planned hydro-power plant developments on the Vjosa river (Albania)		
Armenia		CM/ResDip(2018)14 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Khosrov Forest Reserve (Armenia) CM/ResDip(2013)2 Resolution on the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Khosrov Forest Reserve (Armenia)	
Austria		CM/ResDip(2012)7 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site (Austria) CM/ResDip(2018)21 CM/ResDip(2012)17 Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Thayatal National Park (Austria) CM/ResDip(2019)6 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Wachau Protected Landscape (Austria)	
Belarus		CM/ResDip(2018)16 CM/ResDip(2013)1 Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park (Belarus) CM/ResDip(2010)6 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Berezinsky State Biosphere Reserve (Belarus)	

Belgium		CM/ResDip(2011)9 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve (Belgium)	
Bulgaria	Recommendation No. 200 (2018) on the windfarms planned near Balchik and Kaliakra, and other wind farm developments on the Via Pontica route (Bulgaria)	CM/ResDip(2018)9 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Central Balkan National Park (Bulgaria)	
Cyprus	Recommendation No. 191 (2016) on the conservation of the Akamas peninsula and the sea turtle nesting beaches of Chrysochou Bay (Cyprus)		
Czech Republic		CM/ResDip(2011)1 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area (Czech Republic) CM/ResDip(2010)5 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Karlštejn National Nature Reserve (Czech Republic) CM/ResDip(2010)4 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Podyjí National Park (Czech Republic)	
Estonia		CM/ResDip(2018)5 CM/ResDip(2012)16 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Matsalu National Park (Estonia)	
Finland		CM/ResDip(2011)8 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Seitsemien National Park (Finland)	

<p>France</p>	<p>Recommendation No. 169 (2013) on the Rhone streber (Zingel asper) in the Doubs (France) and in the canton of Jura (Switzerland)</p>	<p>CM/ResDip(2011)5 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Camargue national Reserve (France)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2018)17 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Mercantour National Park (France)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2012)8 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Port-Cros National Park (France)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2010)14 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Ecrins National Park (France)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2010)11 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Scandola Nature Reserve (France)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2011)3 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy) and the Vanoise National Park (France)</p>	
<p>Georgia</p>		<p>CM/ResDip(2015)1 Resolution on the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Vashlovani Protected Areas (Georgia)</p>	

Germany		<p>CM/ResDip(2011)4 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Bayerischer Wald National Park (Germany)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2010)7 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Berchtesgaden National Park (Germany)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2012)5 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Lüneburg Heath Nature Reserve (Germany)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2011)10 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Siebengebirge Nature Reserve (Germany)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2018)2 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Weltenburger Enge Nature Reserve (Germany)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2019)1 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Wollmatinger Ried Untersee-Gnadensee Nature Reserve (Germany)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2019)2 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Wurzacher Ried Nature Reserve (Germany)</p>	
Germany-Luxembourg		<p>CM/ResDip(2012)14 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Germano-Luxembourg Nature Park (Germany/Luxembourg)</p>	
Greece	<p>Recommendation No. 174 (2014) on the conservation of the loggerhead sea turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) and of sand dunes and other coastal habitats in Southern Kyparissia Bay (Natura 2000 – GR 2550005 “Thines Kyparissias”, Peloponnesos, Greece)</p>	<p>CM/ResDip(2019)9 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Cretan White Mountains National Park, Samaria (Greece)</p>	<p>Report on the implementation of the Convention in Greece - 2015</p>

Hungary		<p>CM/ResDip(2010)15 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Ipolytarnóc Protected Area (Hungary)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2010)16 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Szénás Hills Protected Area (Hungary)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2018)15 CM/ResDip(2012)15 Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the volcanic phenomena of the Tihany Peninsula (Hungary)</p>	
Iceland	Recommendation No. 190 (2016) on the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, specially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland		
Ireland		<p>CM/ResDip(2018)13 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Burren Region (Ireland)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2013)3 Resolution on the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Burren Region (Ireland)</p>	

Italy		<p>CM/ResDip(2012)10 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Abruzzi, Lazio and Molise National Park (Italy)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2011)3 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy) and the Vanoise National Park (France)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2012)9 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Maremma Regional Park (Italy)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2018)10 CM/ResDip(2012)20 Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Maritime Alps Nature Park (Italy)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2018)18 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Montecristo Island Nature Reserve (Italy)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2010)3 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli (Italy)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2010)12 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Sasso Fratino Integral Nature Reserve (Italy)</p>	
Lithuania	Recommendation No. 175 (2015) on the monitoring of the agreement concluded in the frame of complaint No. 2013/5 (Lithuania)		
Montenegro	Recommendation No. 201 (2018) on the development of a commercial project in Skadar Lake (Montenegro)		

Netherlands		<p>CM/ResDip(2010)9 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Boschplaat Nature Reserve (Netherlands)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2019)12 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Naardermeer Nature Reserve (Netherlands)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2015)2 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the National Park Weerribben-Wieden (Netherlands)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2010)8 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the De Weerribben Nature Reserve (Netherlands) and to its extension to the De Wieden Nature Reserve</p>	
North Macedonia	Recommendation No. 184 (2015) on the planned hydropower plants on the territory of the Mavrovo National Park (North Macedonia)		
Poland		<p>CM/ResDip(2018)20 CM/ResDip(2012)18 Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Bieszczady National Park (Poland)</p>	
Portugal		<p>CM/ResDip(2019)8 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Desertas Nature Reserve (Portugal)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2014)1 Resolution on the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Desertas Nature Reserve (Portugal)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2012)4 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve (Portugal)</p>	

Romania		<p>CM/ResDip(2010)17 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2011)2 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Piatra Craiului National Park (Romania)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2013)4 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Retezat National Park (Romania)</p>	
Russian Federation		<p>CM/ResDip(2018)8 CM/ResDip(2012)13 Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve (Russian Federation)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2019)11 CM/ResDip(2010)2 Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Oka National Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2019)10 CM/ResDip(2010)1 Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Teberda National Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2018)7 CM/ResDip(2012)12 Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation)</p>	

<p>Slovak Republic</p>		<p>CM/ResDip(2018)12 CM/ResDip(2012)11 Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Dobročský Prales National Nature Reserve (Slovak Republic)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2018)11 CM/ResDip(2012)19 Resolutions on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Poloniny National Park (Slovak Republic)</p>	
<p>Slovenia</p>		<p>CM/ResDip(2019)3 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Triglav National Park (Slovenia)</p>	
<p>Spain</p>		<p>CM/ResDip(2010)13 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Doñana National Park (Spain)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2018)6 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park (Spain)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2019)7 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Teide National Park (Spain)</p>	

<p>Sweden</p>		<p>CM/ResDip(2018)3 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Bullerö and Långviksskär Nature Reserves (Sweden)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2012)2 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Muddus National Park (Sweden)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2012)3 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks (Sweden)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2018)4 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Store Mosse National Park (Sweden)</p>	
<p>Switzerland</p>		<p>CM/ResDip(2012)6 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Swiss National Park (Switzerland)</p>	<p>Report on the implementation of the Convention in Switzerland - 2011</p>
<p>Turkey</p>	<p>Recommendation No. 182 (2015) on the conservation of <i>Caretta caretta</i> and its habitat at Patara (Turkey)</p> <p>Recommendation No. 183 (2015) on the conservation, management, and restoration of Fethiye nesting beaches (Turkey)</p>	<p>CM/ResDip(2011)6 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Kuşçenneti National Park (Turkey)</p>	

<p>United Kingdom</p>		<p>CM/ResDip(2018)19 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve (United Kingdom)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2010)10 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Fair Isle National Scenic Area (United Kingdom)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2019)5 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Minsmere Nature Reserve (United Kingdom)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2011)11 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Peak District National Park (United Kingdom)</p> <p>CM/ResDip(2019)4 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Purbeck Heritage Coast (United Kingdom)</p>	
<p>Ukraine</p>		<p>CM/ResDip(2012)1 Resolution on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine)</p>	

4. Concluding remarks

This document recaps the work achieved by the Convention in the past 9 years and connects it to the Global Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-2030. Although this exercise is useful as it provides a nearly complete overview of the extensive work achieved under the Convention, it does not allow for measuring the impact the policy and guidance work of the Convention has at national level, neither does it allow for more empirical measurement of its contribution to the world targets.

It is also key to note that important challenges remain to achieving full implementation of these policy tools and guidance tools. The role of the Convention and its Groups of Experts is essential in supporting the more effective planning and enforcement of their implementation and in ensuring a consistent policy-relevant monitoring and, when possible, capacity support to Parties for facilitating their implementation.

It is suggested that future work on defining the role and possible contribution of the Bern Convention to the future Global Biodiversity Framework, currently discussed in the framework of the CBD, considers carefully and addresses the challenges for measuring the impact of the Convention's work at national level and its contribution to the global targets. This should be done at the moment of designing the future Bern Convention's strategic priorities for the next decade (2020-2030), which should ideally be initiated at 2020 and finalised once the CBD COP 15 in Kunming (China) delivers its final outcomes.