



Strasbourg, 27 February 2025

T-PVS(2025)01

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**WORKING GROUP
ON OVERSEEING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN
FOR THE BERN CONVENTION FOR THE PERIOD TO 2030**

3rd meeting
20 February 2025
Online meeting, 10.00 – 15.00 CET

- Meeting Report –

Document prepared by the Secretariat of the Bern Convention

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair

The Chair, Mr Jan Plesnik welcomed the participants (see Annex II) in the 3rd meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda of the 3rd meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan was adopted without amendments (see Annex I). The Chair recalled that members of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting would join the meeting for agenda item 7.

3. Conclusions of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan and objectives of the 3rd meeting

The Chair reminded participants of the salient points of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan (see report [T-PVS\(2024\)08](#)) and of the outcomes of the discussions of the 44th Standing Committee (see extract of the list of decisions and adopted texts [T-PVS/Inf\(2025\)02](#)).

4. Follow up on the implementation of the Strategic Plan: proposed workplan for 2025

The Secretariat highlighted the preparation of an updated “metadata” document detailing the approach to operating each of the Strategic Plan indicators, the development of an outline / contents list for the anticipated Monitoring & Evaluation Guide, the presentation to the Bureau in April of the methodology of the UK for monitoring the implementation of recommendations relating to case-files and the planned cooperation with the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks for the three indicators related to the Emerald Network.

The Secretariat also emphasised that Mr Dave Pritchard, consultant entrusted with the development of the indicators of the Strategic Plan of the Bern Convention would represent the Bern Convention in the working group of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) tasked with the elaboration of indicators for the CMS Strategic Plan.

The Secretariat informed that a slightly revised version of the workplan ([T-PVS/Inf\(2025\)01rev](#)) would be produced following the discussion under agenda item 6 on the Questionnaire for the 2025 voluntary national updates on the implementation of the Strategic Plan to include the timeline agreed on for the 2nd cycle of national voluntary updates.

Participants in the Working Group supported the proposed workplan on the Strategic Plan for 2025.

5. Further advancing technical work on the monitoring framework and the indicators for the Strategic Plan

The consultant, Mr Dave Pritchard, informed participants that he would produce an updated “metadata” document detailing the approach to operating each of the Strategic Plan indicators and an outline of a monitoring guide drawing on the metadata by late July and that in the meantime he still needed the insight of the Working Group on a number of indicators.

He recalled that some indicators drew on other existing monitoring schemes. However, no comprehensive baseline existed, and it was likely in many cases that what would be produced in the applicable timeframe for reporting on the indicators would be in the nature of “situation reports”, including some information on trends. Details that still needed to be clarified included methods for extracting relevant sub-sets of wider datasets, and allocating responsibilities for analysis.

Indicator	Next points for a way forward
1.1.a Trends in extent and condition of selected habitat and ecosystem types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management for accessing a Bern-relevant disaggregation of the Red List of Ecosystems. - See agenda item 7.
1.1.b Extent of degraded ecosystems under restoration (by ecosystem type)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use data reported under the CBD Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
1.2 Emerald Network Sufficiency Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Targets for Emerald Network for the period to 2030 have been adopted by the 44th Standing Committee to the Bern Convention. The Sufficiency Index target varies according to the number of biogeographical evaluations Parties went through.
1.3 (a) Extent to which protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) cover Emerald Network sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liaise with UNEP-WCMC on World Databases analysis and with the EEA and UNEP on SEBI indicators.
1.3 (b) Proportion of adopted Emerald Network sites with implemented management plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks will discuss the revision of the Standard Data Form and the addition of new fields related to management effectiveness. - By 2030, 40% of the Emerald Network sites should have management plans. - Dave Pritchard will develop a short note on relevant methods to assess protected area management effectiveness, including tools such as the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). - The outcomes of the LIFE Project on management effectiveness in Natura 2000 implemented by the EUROPARC Federation could be a relevant source of inspiration.
1.4 Contribution of the Emerald Network to the conservation status of habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See agenda item 7.
1.5.a [Indicator based on statistics concerning Case File recommendations (e.g. proportion implemented, partially implemented, not yet implemented)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The UK methodology for tracking the status of Case File Recommendations will be discussed at the Bureau meeting on 8-10 April 2025. - Remove square brackets and rename the indicator: Status of implementation of case-file recommendations.
1.5.b [Indicator based on statistics concerning numbers of Case Files (e.g. numbers per country; number of years each case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove square brackets and rename the indicator: Status of case-file numbers.

has been on Standing Committee agendas)]	
2.1 Conservation status of species, as reported under Resolution No. 8 (2012)	- See agenda item 7.
2.2 Trends in frequency and severity of key anthropogenic pressures impacting on species of wild flora and fauna, as reported under Resolution No. 8 (2012) and the EU Nature Directives	- See agenda item 7.
3.1.a Nature-based quality of life assessment (qualitative summary overview)	- Rely on GBF indicators.
3.1.b Trends in air quality	- The UK to map the various options for selecting an existing air quality indicator.
3.1.c Trends in water quality	- The UK to map the various options for selecting an existing water quality indicator.
3.2 Single review assessment of the contribution made by the conservation and sustainable use of nature under the Bern Convention to other fields of action under the Council of Europe	- Dave Pritchard will develop a draft Terms of Reference document for the envisaged “single review assessment”.
3.3 Number of initiatives involving nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches as reported in Nationally Determined Contributions under the UNFCCC, with ecosystem extent data where available	- Dave Pritchard will develop a draft Terms of Reference document for a single assessment of NDC information to provide the basis for this indicator.
4.1 Resources and capacity available at international level for implementing the Strategic Plan, as assessed for each financial planning period by the Standing Committee	- Look into the CBD Kunming-Montreal GBF indicators and the Programme of Activities of the Bern Convention.

Participants in the Working Group suggested that the metadata update could follow a similar format to the indicator factsheets developed by UNEP-WCMC.

6. Questionnaire for the 2025 voluntary national updates on the implementation of the Strategic Plan

The consultant, Mr Dave Pritchard, recalled that [Recommendation No. 220 \(2023\)](#) on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 provided for national updates to the Standing Committee every year.

He introduced to the Working Group the 2025 draft questionnaire for national voluntary updates on the implementation of the Strategic Plan ([T-PVS/inf\(2025\)05](#)). Considering that nothing in the review of experience from 2024 and the deliberations of the 44th Standing Committee suggested any need to amend the questions, the questionnaire still consisted in 4 simple questions aiming to understand whether the Vision and Strategic Plan were reflected in Contracting Parties' national policies, their major achievements, what challenges they were facing and what were their priorities.

In light of the suggestion of the 44th Standing Committee, the questionnaire now also requested Parties the permission to make their responses public. In order to leave Parties more time to reply to the questionnaire, the Standing Committee also supported launching the request for national voluntary updates earlier and possibly before the summer. To this end, Mr Pritchard proposed the following timeline:

- Questionnaire (in two languages) issued to Parties	Wednesday 30 April
- Deadline for responses to be received by the Secretariat	Friday 10 October
- Summary of national update results completed by consultant (in English)	Friday 31 October
- Summary of national update results (two languages) posted for StC45	Friday 7 November
- Standing Committee 45 th meeting	8-12 December

The Working Group welcomed the changes in the questionnaire and supported the timeline proposed.

7. Indicators relying on the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012)

Members of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting joined the discussion with a view to agree on the next step actions for four indicators relying on the outcomes of the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012).

The consultant, Ms Laura Gavilán Iglesias, referred to the fields of the Reporting Format adopted by the 44th Standing Committee ([T-PVS/PA\(2024\)14](#)) expected to inform the four following indicators:

Indicator	Reporting format
1.1.a Trends in extent and condition of selected habitat and ecosystem types	Field 10.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status (favorable, inadequate, bad, unknown) Field 10.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status (improving, deteriorating, stable, unknown)
1.4 Contribution of the Emerald Network to the	Field 11.6 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition within the network (stable, increasing, decreasing, uncertain, unknown)

conservation status of habitats	Field 12.8 Short-term trend of habitat for the species within the network (stable, increasing, decreasing, uncertain, unknown)														
2.1 Conservation status of species, as reported under Resolution No. 8 (2012)	Field 11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status (favorable, inadequate, bad, unknown) Field 11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status (improving, deteriorating, stable, unknown)														
2.2 Trends in frequency and severity of key anthropogenic pressures impacting on species of wild flora and fauna, as reported under Resolution No. 8 (2012) and the EU Nature Directives	<p>Field 8.1 Characterisation of pressures (part B Species) Field 7.1 Characterisation of pressures (part D Habitats)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">8.1 Characterisation of pressures</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a) Pressure</td><td>List a maximum of 20 pressures using the codelist provided in the Reference portal and fill b) to f) for pressures.</td></tr> <tr> <td>b) Timing</td><td> <input type="checkbox"/> in the past but now suspended due to measures <input type="checkbox"/> ongoing <input type="checkbox"/> ongoing and likely to be in the future <input type="checkbox"/> only in future </td></tr> <tr> <td>c) Scope (proportion of population affected)</td><td> Fill in for 'ongoing' and 'ongoing and likely to be in the future': <input type="checkbox"/> whole >90% <input type="checkbox"/> majority 50 – 90% <input type="checkbox"/> minority <50% </td></tr> <tr> <td>d) Influence (on population or habitat of the species)</td><td> Fill in for 'ongoing' and 'ongoing and likely to be in the future'. <input type="checkbox"/> High influence <input type="checkbox"/> Medium influence <input type="checkbox"/> Low influence </td></tr> <tr> <td>e) Invasive alien species of Bern Convention concern</td><td>Fill where pressure on 'IAS of Bern Convention concern' is selected. Please select from relevant species-list (see Reporting reference portal)</td></tr> <tr> <td>f) Other invasive alien species <i>Optional</i></td><td>Fill where pressure 'other invasive alien species - other than species of Bern Convention concern' is selected.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	8.1 Characterisation of pressures		a) Pressure	List a maximum of 20 pressures using the codelist provided in the Reference portal and fill b) to f) for pressures.	b) Timing	<input type="checkbox"/> in the past but now suspended due to measures <input type="checkbox"/> ongoing <input type="checkbox"/> ongoing and likely to be in the future <input type="checkbox"/> only in future	c) Scope (proportion of population affected)	Fill in for 'ongoing' and 'ongoing and likely to be in the future': <input type="checkbox"/> whole >90% <input type="checkbox"/> majority 50 – 90% <input type="checkbox"/> minority <50%	d) Influence (on population or habitat of the species)	Fill in for 'ongoing' and 'ongoing and likely to be in the future'. <input type="checkbox"/> High influence <input type="checkbox"/> Medium influence <input type="checkbox"/> Low influence	e) Invasive alien species of Bern Convention concern	Fill where pressure on 'IAS of Bern Convention concern' is selected. Please select from relevant species-list (see Reporting reference portal)	f) Other invasive alien species <i>Optional</i>	Fill where pressure 'other invasive alien species - other than species of Bern Convention concern' is selected.
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The consultant drew the attention of the participants to some limitations regarding the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012), namely:

- Not all Contracting Parties would participate in the reporting exercise, creating gaps in the availability of relevant data.
- The reporting would focus on only a selected set of habitat types and species.
- The reporting would consider only habitat types with a 1 to 1 relationship with Annex I to the EU Habitats Directive.
- Bird species were excluded from the reporting and data should come from elsewhere.
- Parties would report on marine features on a voluntary basis and comprehensive data should come from elsewhere.
- Results would contain gaps, and the conservation status and trends of habitats and species may be unknown for many features.
- Data would be reported at biogeographical level whereas the implementation of the Strategic Plan was also considered at national level.
- The reporting was still a learning process for a many Contracting Parties. Data quality could be uneven.

She concluded her presentation informing participants that the data delivered within the frame of the second reporting cycle would be timely available for the mid-term review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Data for the third reporting cycle covering the period 2025 – 2030 would be delivered in 2031 at the earliest resulting in a possible delay of the final review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

In the subsequent discussion, participants pointed to the need to explore whether other fields in the reporting format could inform alternatively on the conservation status in case data for the above referred to fields would be unknown. Also, participants wondered how the long list of pressures and threats potentially reported in fields 7.1 and 8.1 could result in a single value relevant for the indicator of the Strategic Plan.

Mr Dave Pritchard suggested that it could be useful to present examples of how indicators would work, using existing or even fictitious data, for illustrative purposes.

8. Any other business

Participants suggested to circulate the updated “metadata” document detailing the approach to operating each of the Strategic Plan indicators among members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan ahead of the 4th meeting scheduled provisionally on 14 October 2025.

The Secretariat informed that, according to the workplan for 2025, the draft document should be ready late July and could be circulated beginning of August and that comments could be submitted until mid-September 2025.

9. Conclusions of the meeting

The Chair thanked Mr Dave Pritchard for his intensive work on the indicators, the Secretariat for huge support to the Group’s activities and the participants of both the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan and of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting for their contributions to the discussion.



ANNEX I:

		Documents	Expected results
Thursday 20 February 2025			
10.00	1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair		
	2. Adoption of the agenda	Meeting agenda T-PVS/Agenda(2025)03 For adoption	Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan are informed of the aims of the meeting and adopt the agenda.
	3. Conclusions of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan and objectives of the 3rd meeting <i>Presentation by the Chair</i> <i>Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan are reminded of the outcomes of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group and of the outcomes of the discussion at the 44th Standing Committee and informed of the expected objectives of the meeting.</i>	Report of the 2 nd meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan T-PVS(2024)08 Extract of the lists of decisions and adopted texts of the 44 th Standing Committee T-PVS/Inf(2025)02 For information	Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan take note of the state of play of the discussions and of the objectives of the meeting.

	<p>4. Follow up on the implementation of the Strategic Plan: proposed workplan for 2025</p> <p><i>Presentation by the Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan are informed of the proposed workplan for 2025 and invited to provide guidance to the Secretariat.</i></p>	<p>Workplan for 2025 T-PVS/Inf(2025)01</p> <p>For discussion and decision</p>	<p>Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan agree on a workplan for 2025.</p>
	<p>5. Further advancing technical work on the monitoring framework and the indicators for the Strategic Plan</p> <p><i>Presentation by Dave Pritchard</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan are informed of the progress in the operationalisation of the indicators and invited to exchange views on the follow up work.</i></p>	<p>Operationalising the Strategic Plan's indicators – next steps T-PVS(2024)12</p> <p>For discussion and decision</p>	<p>Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan agree on the next steps for the operationalisation of the indicators of the Strategic Plan.</p>
	<p>6. Questionnaire for the 2025 voluntary national updates on the implementation of the Strategic Plan</p> <p><i>Presentation by Dave Pritchard</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan are invited to provide feedback on the proposed draft questionnaire for the 2025 voluntary national updates on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and to discuss a timeline for the survey.</i></p>	<p>Draft questionnaire for the 2025 voluntary national updates on the implementation of the Strategic Plan T-PVS/inf(2025)05</p> <p>For discussion and decision</p>	<p>Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic agree on the draft questionnaire for the 2025 voluntary national updated on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and on a timeframe for calling for and receiving the voluntary national updates.</p>

	<p>7. Indicators relying on the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012)</p> <p><i>Presentation by Dave Pritchard and the Chair of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting</i></p> <p><i>Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan and members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting are invited to discuss the extent to which the outcomes of the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) will feed into the indicators of the Strategic Plan which rely on the reporting and to provide guidance to the Secretariat on the follow up work.</i></p>	<p>For discussion and decision</p>	<p>Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan and members of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting agree on follow up actions to ensure the outcomes of the reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012) meet the requirements of the indicators of the Strategic Plan which rely on the reporting.</p>
	8. Any other business		
	9. Conclusions of the meeting		
15.00	<p>Thursday 20 February 2025</p> <p>End of the meeting</p>		



ANNEX II:

Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan

Contracting Parties	Name
Czech Republic	Mr Jan PLESNIK Adviser for International Relations Nature Conservation Agency Ministry of the Environment <i>Chair of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma</i>
Georgia	Ms Salome NOZADZE <i>Chair of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting</i> <i>Chair of the Group of National Focal Points for the Conservation of Sturgeons</i>
Finland	Ms Maria WESTERMAN Senior Ministerial Adviser Ministry of the Environment Department of the Natural Environment, Biodiversity
France	M. Charles-Henri DE BARSAC Chargé de mission "accords internationaux et européens faune sauvage" sous-direction de la protection et de la restauration des écosystèmes terrestres Ministère de la Transition Ecologique et Solidaire <i>Chair of the Ad hoc Drafting Group of an Amending Protocol</i>
Monaco	Ms Astrid CLAUDEL RUSIN Chef de Section Direction de l'Environnement
Türkiye	Ms Berna YALCINKAYA General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
United Kingdom	Ms Leah FARQUHARSON International Biodiversity Advisor, JNCC
Observer	Name
ANUU Migratoristi Italian Hunting association member of FACE Italy	Mr Ferdinando RANZANICI Environmental Certification and Natura 2000 Expert
Born Free Foundation	Ms Adeline LERAMBERT International Policy Manager
CEE Bankwatch Network	Mr Andrey RALEV Biodiversity Campaigner

	Czech Republic
EUROPARC Federation	Ms Sanna Kaisa JUVONEN Policy Development Manager Germany
International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC Wildlife	Ms Margarita ARRIETA GARCIA Policy Coordinator
IUCN	Ms Milica MISKOVIC Conservation Action Programme Officer, ECARO
Pro Natura - Friends of the Earth	Mr Friedrich WULF Head, International Biodiversity Policy Switzerland
Independent consultant	Name
	Mr Dave PRITCHARD
Bern Convention Secretariat	Name
	Mr Marc HORY

Members of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Reporting

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<i>Experts</i>	
	Ms Laura-Patricia GAVILAN IGLESIAS Mr Marc ROEKAERTS