



Strasbourg, 23 July 2026

T-PVS(2026)01

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Working Group overseeing the implementation of the Bern Convention Strategic Plan to 2030

4th meeting

4 March 2026 (9.30 AM – 1.00 PM CET)
(*online meeting*)

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) to the 4th meeting of the Working Group overseeing the implementation of the Bern Convention Strategic Plan to 2030. He highlighted the primary aim of the meeting: to define next steps and priorities for 2026, and to set a clear roadmap in accordance with the terms of reference adopted by the Standing Committee.

2. Overview of the objectives for the 4th meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Secretariat outlined the objectives for the meeting, including further technical refinement of plan indicators, review of the voluntary national updates questionnaire, preparations for the 2027 mid-term review, and agreement on the 2026 workplan.

The agenda was adopted without amendment (see Annex I).

3. Conclusions of the 3rd meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan and subsequent developments

The Chair recalled the outcomes and follow-up actions from the 3rd meeting (20 February 2025) of the Working Group (see report [T-PVS\(2025\)01](#)), as well as outcomes of the discussions of the 45th Standing Committee (see extract of the list of decisions and adopted texts [T-PVS/Inf\(2026\)02](#)).

4. Further advancing technical work on the indicators for the Strategic Plan – review and refinement of draft factsheets; and agreement of next action steps

The consultant, Mr Dave Pritchard, introduced the draft indicator factsheets. He explained that these build on previous metadata work, incorporating comments from earlier meetings and being consistent where appropriate with the approach used by UNEP-WCMC for the global biodiversity framework. The factsheets are intended as practical tools to define the methods for monitoring and reporting on progress towards the Strategic Plan targets. Mr Pritchard stressed the need for further input to address remaining gaps and refine methodologies prior to implementation.

Indicator	Next points for a way forward
1.1.a Trends in extent and condition of selected habitat and ecosystem types	- Discuss with contacts in the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management a method for accessing a Bern-relevant disaggregation of the Red List of Ecosystems. Identify contacts and arrange dialogue. The UK (LF) is willing to help with this, and to bring a national perspective. - Seek advice from the Ad Hoc Working Group on Reporting concerning details of countries and habitats that have been covered by the 2nd cycle of Resolution No. 8 reporting; arrangements for joining this together with EU Article 17 reporting data; information on data

	being submitted voluntarily on additional habitat types; and the exact route-map for analysis and synthesis work planned in 2026 (including methods for combining extent and condition data into a “headline” status summary).
1.1.b Extent of degraded ecosystems under restoration (by ecosystem type)	- Employ data submitted under the CBD Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), specifically Indicator 2.1 “Area under restoration”. - Data availability will be determined by the timetable of CBD national reports. - Recognise that restoration datasets may be incomplete or delayed (UK data anticipated for the 8th CBD National Report in 2029). - Identify relevant, non-quantitative fields in Resolution 8, in particular regarding restoration measures. - Ensure a realistic scope for both data collection and reporting cycles. - Assess whether this indicator is duplicative of, or complementary to, existing GBF reporting requirements.
1.2 Emerald Network Sufficiency Index	- Organise with the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks a plan for producing a habitat-disaggregated synthesis of Sufficiency Index data findings related to the four-level 2030 Emerald Network sufficiency targets, as a report on Strategic Plan Indicator 1.2; together with an agreed understanding concerning future periodic updates of this. Details to be confirmed at a joint meeting of the GoE and the Strategic Plan Working Group in October 2026. - Address lack of progress in site proposals; the Standing Committee and Secretariat will have to support Parties with database submissions.
1.3 (a) Extent to which protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) cover Emerald Network sites	- Compare Emerald site areas with the World Database on Protected Areas and OECMs (UNEP-WCMC). - Collate data from the Standard Data Form and Resolution 8 reporting. - Recognise that OECM adoption and definitions vary between Parties; consider separate reporting of protected areas and OECMs. - Coordinate with the EEA for Parties reporting via NATDA.

	- Further technical refinement will be required, including clear distinction in overlays for protected areas and OECMs.
1.3 (b) Proportion of adopted Emerald Network sites with implemented management plans	- Use the revised Standard Data Form to record the presence, implementation, and assessment of management plans. - Aim for 40% of Emerald Network sites to have management plans by 2030. - UNEP WCMC may be able to provide input from the Global Database on Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME), and EUROPARC from the ongoing “LIFE PAME-Europe” project - https://www.europarc.org/about-us/europarc-projects/life-pame-europe/ . UK in mid-2026 to share report on a national trial of the use of the “MEPCA” tool in relation to “30x30” targets. - Full data fields become mandatory in 2030, following the current transition period.
1.4 Contribution of the Emerald Network to the conservation status of habitats	- Rely on information from Resolution No. 8, particularly fields 11.6 and 12.8. - The deadline for the second reporting cycle is March 2026; initial results are expected in the summer. - Biogeographical and/or national-level assessments should be considered. - Clarify operational procedures with the Reporting Group and Group of Experts on Protected Areas.
1.5.a Status of implementation of Case File recommendations	- The UK presented a traffic light system to monitor recommendation status. - Clarify the scope (formal recommendations versus Standing Committee conclusions). Bureau to discuss further the wisest approach to “implemented” / “partially implemented” / “not yet implemented” categorisation judgements and the associated caveats for reporting on this indicator. - Develop a standard reporting template for Parties to provide updates on the status of recommendations relating to Case Files that involve their country. - Ensure that ongoing and partial implementation is accurately reported, noting divergences between Party and complainant perspectives.

	- The Secretariat will prepare materials for consideration by the Bureau and Standing Committee.
1.5.b Status of Case File numbers	- Use decisions of the Standing Committee and progress reports. - Investigate the value of a case file dashboard or “barometer”. - Consider the reporting framework and potential statistical bias from early closure. - Ensure that numbers are accompanied by clear background information to prevent misinterpretation.
2.1 Conservation status of species, as reported under Resolution No. 8 (2012)	- Second reporting cycle data on Resolution No. 8 (2012) will feed into the mid-term review. Use reporting fields 11.5 (status) and 11.6 (trend) from Resolution No. 8 (2102) reporting; arrangements for joining this together with EU Article 17 reporting data. - Information on data to be acquired on birds from processes operated by BirdLife International and IUCN; and the exact route-map for analysis and synthesis work planned in 2026. - Assessments should cover both national and biogeographical levels. - Maintain close coordination with the Working Group on Reporting under Resolution No. 8 (2012).
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	- Employ fields 8.1 (species) and 7.1 (habitats) from Resolution 8 reporting; arrangements for joining this together with EU Article 17 reporting data; and the exact route-map for analysis and synthesis work planned in 2026. - Refine the method for deriving indicator values from a range of reported pressures. - Note that “trend” analysis may not be possible until several reporting cycles have accrued. - Include data on scope, influence, and severity.
3.1.a Nature-based quality of life assessment (qualitative summary overview)	- Monitor the operationalising of K-MGBF indicator B1 (in discussion with Parties and relevant experts, and in collaboration as necessary with the UN Statistics Division), and develop the details of its application for Bern Convention Indicator 3.1 (a).

	- UK to share its results for K-MGBF indicator B1 as published in 2025, and offer suggestions on the approach for feeding B1 results generally into Bern indicator 3.1 (a).
3.1.b Trends in air quality	- The UK will review and recommend existing air quality indicators, with a view to adopting those already in use to reduce reporting burden. - A report on selected options will be provided by the UK. Working Group to confirm a favoured choice, then the requisite metadata details will be developed.
3.1.c Trends in water quality	- The UK will map available water quality indicators with a view to alignment with existing reporting obligations. - Preferred approach is alignment with established reporting frameworks. - Working Group to confirm a favoured choice, then the requisite metadata details will be developed.
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	- See Draft Terms of Reference for “single assessment” studies under agenda item 5. - Consider including sustainable use as reported by Parties. - Consultancy will coordinate with relevant Council of Europe services and documents. - Await written input on scope and methods.
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	- See Draft Terms of Reference for “single assessment” studies under agenda item 5. - Use information provided in NDCs. - Clarify whether the focus is solely on climate action or broader ecosystem objectives. - Address issues concerning carbon offsetting and the reliability of NDC reporting. - Potential links to be explored with the work of the CoE Steering Committee on the Environment (CDENV) relating to Nature-based Solutions and ecosystem-based approaches.
4.1 Resources and capacity available at international level for implementing the	- Use Secretariat-managed data on annual budgets and resources. - Supplement with relevant indicators from CBD GBF and review the Programme of Activities.

Strategic Plan, as assessed for each financial planning period by the Standing Committee	- Exclude national-level data due to reporting complexity.
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Participants were invited to provide written input on the draft indicator factsheets to address any outstanding gaps and ensure their effective implementation.

The Group agreed to give priority to indicators that are ready for operationalisation, and to continue monitoring progress on those still under development, thereby supporting continuous and robust implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The Secretariat highlighted that several indicators depend largely on Contracting Parties' participation in the reporting exercise under Resolution No. 8 (2012), the submission of new SDF for the Emerald network and the quality of data submitted. Therefore, Contracting Parties were encouraged to actively participate in these reporting exercises to support the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan.

5. Further advancing technical work on the indicators for the Strategic Plan – review and refinement of Terms of Reference for the “single assessment” studies and the supporting material on management effectiveness; and agreement of next action steps

Mr Pritchard presented draft Terms of Reference for the envisaged "single assessment" studies (indicators 3.2 and 3.3). These are to be refined following written feedback and further consultation with the Secretariat. He also introduced supporting materials on assessing management effectiveness in protected areas and OECMs.

The EUROPARC Federation presented the LIFE PAME Europe project, which pilots assessment frameworks at site and system level across 47 protected areas in 26 countries, including both Natura 2000 and Emerald Network sites. Training seminars are underway and results will be shared as available. Further information on the LIFE PAME Europe project is accessible at this [link](#).

The Group welcomed the LIFE PAME Europe initiative and agreed to review its results and methodologies, especially as relevant to indicator 1.3.b (management plans/effectiveness).

6. Strategic Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Guide

Mr Pritchard presented a draft outline for the Strategic Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Guide, which is referenced in the Strategic Plan as the repository for indicator operation procedures and practical guidance for Parties. The Guide is intended to compile indicator fact sheets, methods, data flows, reporting requirements, and key timelines.

The draft indicates foreseen sections on the following:

- Context and rationale for the Strategic Plan and indicators;
- Practical guidance on submission of national data, including voluntary national update procedures;

- Instructions to Parties on format and response deadlines;
- Summaries of data collation, review, and validation processes;
- Roles of the Standing Committee and Bureau in oversight;
- Processes for synthesising results and preparing for mid-term (2027) and final evaluations.

Participants discussed the Guide's necessity. Some questioned its distinct added value, given the comprehensive factsheets, while others valued a single, user-oriented reference.

It was agreed that the Guide should remain a living document, updating current best practice and providing pragmatic support for reporting and evaluation.

7. Proposed ways forward for operating the “voluntary national updates on the implementation of the Strategic Plan” in 2026

The consultant, Mr Dave Pritchard, presented the draft questionnaire for voluntary national updates on the implementation of the Strategic Plan ([T-PVS/inf\(2025\)05](#)). He recalled that [Recommendation No. 220 \(2023\)](#) on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 recommends that Contracting Parties provide national updates to the Standing Committee every year. The Working Group agreed on the questionnaire and the timeline for the voluntary national update process, to be launched in 2026 and to be concluded in time for the presentation of its outcomes at the 46th Standing Committee meeting.

8. Planning the “mid-term review” expected in 2027

The consultant, Mr Pritchard, introduced preparations for the 2027 mid-term review in accordance with [Recommendation No. 220 \(2023\)](#). He emphasised the importance of this review as a milestone for assessing progress across all Strategic Plan targets and indicators. The review will rely in particular on Resolution No. 8 (2012) second cycle results, voluntary national updates and supporting documentation, noting that some reporting cycles may not deliver before 2031.

Given that not all indicators will be fully ready by mid-term, the Group agreed to prioritise those with available data and methodologies. Remaining areas will be noted transparently and developed for future reviews. Continued coordination with relevant expert and working groups was considered essential.

9. Follow up on the implementation of the Strategic Plan: proposed workplan for 2026

The Secretariat presented the draft Workplan for 2026 ([T-PVS/Inf\(2026\)01](#)), covering:

- Technical refinement of indicators;
- Enhanced coordination with expert groups;
- Party support for Emerald database submissions;
- Complete facilitation of voluntary national updates;

- Preparation for the mid-term review;
- Integration of LIFE PAME Europe and related external work;
- Regular progress review and transparent reporting to the Bureau and Standing Committee.

The Group agreed on the proposed Workplan for 2026, while emphasising the need for flexibility, resource awareness, and synergies across Working Groups and thematic Group of Experts.

10. Any other business

No other business was raised.

11. Conclusions of the meeting

The Chair thanked Mr Dave Pritchard for his work on the indicators, the Secretariat for their support, and all participants for their valuable contributions to the meeting. He noted the importance of continued engagement and written feedback from Parties within fourteen days, which will be compiled and conveyed to the Bureau and Standing Committee. The Chair closed the meeting, expressing confidence in the Group's ability to advance the Strategic Plan in the coming year.

Annex I: Adopted Agenda

		Documents	Expected results
Wednesday 4 March 2026			
9.30 – 9.35 AM	1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair		
9.35 – 9.40 AM	2. Overview of the objectives for the 4th meeting and adoption of the agenda <i>Presentation by the Secretariat</i>	Meeting agenda T-PVS/Agenda(2026)01 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.
9.40 – 9.45 AM	3. Conclusions of the 3rd meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan and subsequent developments <i>Presentation by the Chair</i>	Report of the 3 rd meeting of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan with a joint session together with the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting T-PVS(2025)01 Extract of the lists of decisions and adopted texts of the 45 th Standing Committee T-PVS/Inf(2026)02 For information	Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan take note of the outcomes of the 3 rd meeting, the state of play of the discussions at the 45 th Standing Committee meeting and any relevant development within the Bern Convention context.
9.45 – 11.00 AM	4. Further advancing technical work on the indicators for the Strategic Plan – review and refinement of draft factsheets; and agreement of	Indicator 1.1.a – metadata factsheet Indicator 1.1.b – metadata factsheet Indicator 1.2 – metadata factsheet Indicator 1.3.a – metadata factsheet	Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan agree on the next steps for the review and refinement of draft factsheets.

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	next action steps <i>Presentation by Dave Pritchard</i>	Indicator 1.3.b – metadata factsheet Indicator 1.4 – metadata factsheet Indicator 1.5.a – metadata factsheet Indicator 1.5.b – metadata factsheet Indicator 2.1 – metadata factsheet Indicator 2.2 – metadata factsheet Indicator 3.1.a – metadata factsheet Indicator 3.1.b – metadata factsheet Indicator 3.1.c – metadata factsheet Indicator 3.2 – metadata factsheet Indicator 3.3– metadata factsheet Indicator 4.1 – metadata factsheet For discussion and decision	
11.00 – 11.30 AM	5. Further advancing technical work on the indicators for the Strategic Plan – review and refinement of Terms of Reference for	Indicator 3.2 – Single assessment ToRs Indicator 3.3 – Single assessment ToRs Methods for assessing the management effectiveness of protected areas and	Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan agree on the next steps for the review and refinement of ToRs for the “single assessment” studies and the supporting material on

	the “single assessment” studies and the supporting material on management effectiveness; and agreement of next action steps <i>Presentation by Dave Pritchard</i>	other effective area-based conservation measures For discussion and decision	management effectiveness.
11.30 – 11.45 AM	6. Strategic Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Guide <i>Presentation by Dave Pritchard</i>	Strategic Plan to 2030 – Monitoring & Evaluation Guide – draft outline For discussion and decision	Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan agree on the next steps regarding the monitoring framework of the Strategic Plan.
11.45 AM – 12.00 PM	7. Proposed ways forward for operating the “voluntary national updates on the implementation of the Strategic Plan” in 2026 <i>Presentation by Dave Pritchard</i>	Draft questionnaire for the 2025 voluntary national updates on the implementation of the Strategic Plan T-PVS/inf(2025)05 For discussion and decision	Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan agree on ways forward for the operationalisation of the “voluntary national updates on the implementation of the Strategic Plan” in 2026.
12.00 – 12.15 PM	8. Planning the “mid-term review” expected in 2027 <i>Presentation by Dave Pritchard</i>	Recommendation No. 220 (2023) of the Standing Committee on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 Rec(2023)220e For discussion and decision	Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan agree on a plan for the “mid-term review” expected in 2027.

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12.15 – 12.45 PM	9. Follow up on the implementation of the Strategic Plan: proposed workplan for 2026 <i>Presentation by the Secretariat</i>	Draft Workplan for 2026 T-PVS/Inf(2026)01 For discussion and decision	Members of the Working Group on overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan agree on a workplan for 2026 and on proposals for next 2026 meeting in conjunction with the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks.
12.45 – 12.55 PM	10. Any other business		
12.55 – 1.00 PM	11. Conclusions of the meeting		
1.00 PM	End of the meeting		

Annex II: List of Participants

Contracting Parties	Name
CZECH REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE	Mr Jan PLESNIK Adviser for International Relations Nature Conservation Agency Ministry of the Environment <i>Chair of the Group of the Working Group overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention and of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas</i> Ms Kateřina BUCHTELOVA Ministry of the Environment
GEORGIA / GÉORGIE	Ms Salome NOZADZE Biodiversity and Forest Department Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture <i>Chair of the Ad hoc Working Group on Reporting</i>
ITALY / ITALIE	Mr Michele DE AUGUSTINIS Ministry of Environment and Energy Security
MONACO	Ms Astrid CLAUDEL RUSIN Head of Section Direction of the Environment
SERBIA / SERBIE	Ms Snezana PROKIC Ministry for Environmental Protection
TÜRKIYE / TURQUIE	Ms Berna ALKAN General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks Mr Emrah BOZKAYA General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI	Ms Leah FARQUHARSON International Biodiversity Advisor, JNCC
Observer	Name

ANUU Migratoristi Italian Hunting association member of FACE Italy	Mr Ferdinando RANZANICI Natura 2000 and Biodiversity Expert
Born Free Foundation	Ms Adeline LERAMBERT International Policy Manager
EUROPARC Federation	Ms Sanna Kaisa JUVONEN Policy Development Manager Germany
Pro Natura - Friends of the Earth	Mr Friedrich WULF International Biodiversity Campaigner Friends of the Earth Europe c/o Pro Natura
Independent consultant	Name
	Mr Dave PRITCHARD Ms Laura Patricia GAVILAN IGLESIAS
Bern Convention Secretariat	Name
	Ms Grazia Alessandra SIINO Secretary Ms Marta MEDLINSKA Administrator Ms Lilas HEULLANT Administrative Assistant