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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

42nd meeting

Strasbourg, 28 November - 2 December 2022

**REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF
THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON BIODIVERSITY AND
CLIMATE CHANGE**

*Document prepared by
the Secretariat of the Bern Convention*

I. BACKGROUND

In 2006, the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention adopted Recommendation No. 122 on the conservation of biological diversity in the context of climate change setting up a Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change to review the effects of climate change on the biological diversity and to propose advice and guidance for use in developing appropriate adaptation and management policies for the conservation of the biological diversity.

Since 2006, the Group of Experts elaborated the following eleven recommendations:

- No. 122 (2006) on the conservation of biological diversity in the context of climate change
- No. 135 (2008) and No. 143 (2009) on addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity
- No. 145 (2010) on guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change in mountain regions
- No. 146 (2010) on guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change in European islands
- No. 147 (2010) on guidance for Parties on wildland fires, biodiversity and climate change
- No. 152 (2011) on Marine Biodiversity and Climate Change
- No. 158 (2012) on Conservation translocations under changing climatic conditions and
- No. 159 (2012) on the effective implementation of guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change
- No. 187 (2016) on communicating on climate change and biodiversity
- No. 206 (2019) on nature-based solutions and management of protected areas in the face of climate change

In 2021, the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention adopted a vision for the period to 2030 stating that “By 2030, declines in biodiversity are halted, leading to recovery of wildlife and habitats, improving the lives of people and contributing to the health of the planet.”

In 2022, acknowledging that climate change is a major overarching driver responsible for biodiversity decline and for the deterioration of people’s well-being, that will increase its impacts, members of the Group of Experts recognised that the Group’s role in tracking climate change impact on biodiversity, fostering engagement and action, bridging policy and practice and keeping the Standing Committee updated was more important than ever.

II. SCOPE

The Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change will provide a dedicated cooperation platform to support Parties’ actions and facilitate the exchange of good practices and initiatives.

The Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change is requested to:

- Regularly review the recommendations of the Convention related to climate change.
- Explore the opportunity to use existing reporting and monitoring tools of the Convention to assess progress by Parties in the implementation of recommendations in the field of climate change, as well as ways to simplify and streamline reporting activities. If necessary, propose new tools for developing action-oriented reporting.
- Provide support to Parties to monitor the impact of climate change on protected areas and include adaptation measures in management plans in cooperation with other relevant Groups of Experts under the Bern Convention.
- Encourage and assist Parties in increasing knowledge about the vulnerability of species to climate change and collecting and analysing information and data.
- Foster (cross-border) cooperation among Contracting Parties.

- Provide, if required, information, guidance and advice to other technical, scientific Groups of Experts under the Bern Convention, and to the Standing Committee on questions and issues related to relations between biodiversity and climate change.

III. COMPOSITION

The Group of Experts will comprise relevant representatives of Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention and observers and may invite relevant third parties as deemed necessary.

The Group of Experts will select one Chair from amongst the Contracting Party members for a term of office of 2 years.

IV. WORKING METHODS

The members of the Group of Experts will provide input through meetings, conference calls, written contributions to draft papers, reports, and other means as appropriate.

The working language will be English.

The Group of Experts will determine its own meeting frequency. The Group of Experts shall operate by online means and physical meetings as appropriate.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee will review and evaluate the work of the Group of Experts at the Bureau's meetings through the year.

In co-operation with the Chair, the Secretariat will coordinate and assist with the organisation and preparation of the agenda for the meetings of the Group of Experts and any other support activities deemed necessary.