



Strasbourg, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

**T-PVS(2023)09**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

43<sup>rd</sup> meeting

Strasbourg, 28 November - 1 December 2023

**WORKING GROUP**  
**ON DEVELOPING A VISION AND STRATEGIC PLAN**  
**FOR THE BERN CONVENTION FOR THE PERIOD TO 2030**

**6<sup>th</sup> meeting**

**17 – 18 April 2023**

**Council of Europe, 55 Avenue Kléber – 75116 Paris, room 1**

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**-MEETING REPORT-**

*Document prepared by  
the Secretariat of the Bern Convention*

## **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr Jan Plesnik (Czech Republic), opened the meeting, welcomed participants, and thanked those members who had contributed to the latest consultation, as well as the independent consultant and Secretariat for their ongoing support.

Mr Gianluca Silvestrini, Head of the Biodiversity Division and Head *ad interim* of the Department for Culture, Nature and Heritage at the Council of Europe (CoE), also expressed his welcome to the participants, and introduced the new Secretary of the Bern Convention, Mr Mikaël Poutiers, attending his first in-person meeting. Mr Silvestrini informed the Group of the state of preparation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the CoE, organised by the Icelandic presidency of the Committee of Ministers. Environment and human rights had been identified as one of the current and future challenges to be discussed at the Summit in Reykjavik. The Secretariat hoped that this topic will be retained among the future priorities of the Organisation and, therefore, the Bern Convention could receive adequate financial support in the framework of the programme and budget 2024-27.

The agenda was adopted (Appendix I).

## **2. Strategic Plan**

### **a. Recap of the decisions of the 42nd Standing Committee and Bureau**

The Chair and Mr Dave Pritchard, independent consultant, recalled the process to date: the Working Group had already met five times since 2021, undertaken several consultations, and developed the Strategic Plan through eight drafts. At the 42<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee meeting in December 2022, the Committee had welcomed the progress and direction in which the Plan was going, and mandated the Group to continue its work during 2023, with the goal of presenting a final draft to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee meeting for consideration and possible adoption. On this last point, it had strongly expressed the wish to not delay the adoption any further. The Bureau had reiterated this position during its recent meeting on 29-30 March 2023. Following the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting, a further consultation on the 8<sup>th</sup> draft of the Plan had taken place, with several comments received. Furthermore, a draft glossary had also been developed, for the consideration of the Group.

### **b. Outcomes of CBD COP15 as context for the Bern Convention Strategic Plan: the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Mr Pritchard recalled that the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention had instructed that the Strategic Plan should be elaborated in close tandem with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Following delays, the text that eventually had been given the formal title of the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” had been adopted by CBD Parties at the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) in Montreal in December 2022. The accompanying Monitoring Framework had also been adopted at the same meeting.

In that regard and in order to keep the Bern Convention Strategic Plan closely aligned with the GBF, the consultant had prepared a reference document highlighting some of the key elements of the GBF and ways in which they related to corresponding elements in the 8<sup>th</sup> draft of the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention, and where appropriate also to the Vision and Goals for the Convention.

The members of the Working Group appreciated this document which allowed for an in-depth comparison of the GBF elements with those of the Bern Convention draft Strategic Plan.

### **c. Recap on the results of the consultations on the targets and indicators**

The Chair supported by the consultant presented a short recap on the latest consultation since the 42<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee which had gathered comments from several members. It was also highlighted that a bilateral meeting had been held with the members of the United Kingdom to clarify some of their comments, of which the Chair appreciated the efforts.

### **d. Discussion and resolution of outstanding elements of the Plan**

The Working Group, guided by the Chair and supported by the consultant who had provided a compilation document of the consultation including proposals for solutions, discussed in detail

outstanding issues of the Strategic Plan, which remained to be resolved. The Working Group approved a few changes to the text and agreed to place several sections of the document into appendices. It requested that the consultant revise the draft Strategic Plan accordingly.

As there still remained some details to be elaborated regarding several of the indicators and the reporting to be undertaken by Parties, it was suggested that the intended development of a Monitoring Framework could follow the Strategic Plan as a second phase, therefore not jeopardising the adoption of the Plan at the end of this year. However, several Parties cautioned that, while this could be the case, Parties would need to have clear information before adoption of the Plan this year on the types of reporting and reporting timeframes that would be expected. The subsequent Monitoring Framework could then largely take the form of a compilation of relevant monitoring information and links to already existing resources.

#### **e. Discussion on the proposed Glossary**

Mr Pritchard, recalling that the list of terms of the draft glossary had already been included in previous drafts and that no comments alluding to this list had been announced during the latest consultation, presented the draft which now included the definitions and interpretations.

The members appreciated this work. A discussion ensued on how to frame this document. The conclusion was that it should be annexed to the Strategic Plan, but the Standing Committee should make it clear that the terms could be updated from time to time if definitions at Bern Convention or international level changed.

### **3. Next steps and timeline**

The Chair proposed to the Working Group the next steps for the elaboration of the Strategic Plan ahead of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee meeting, taking place at the end of the year. The consultant would prepare a 9<sup>th</sup> draft of the Plan following the results of this meeting and share it with the members of the Group for their confirmation of the agreed-upon changes. Following this, the Bureau of the Standing Committee, either by correspondence or during a possible extra-ordinary meeting in June, would consider the 9<sup>th</sup> draft and possibly endorse it. Thus, ideally before the summer break, the 9<sup>th</sup> draft of the Strategic Plan could already be submitted to the members of the Standing Committee for its consideration, allowing Parties sufficient time before the meeting at the end of the year.

Furthermore, it had been suggested that a draft recommendation or resolution could accompany the draft Strategic Plan and also be submitted for possible adoption at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee meeting. This could include (amongst others) the following elements:

- A process for the Standing Committee to have a periodic high-level overview of progress towards achievement of the Strategic Plan;
- An outline of key reporting timeframes that will support this progress overview;
- Encouragement for Parties to use National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other instruments to support implementation of the Strategic Plan;
- A recommendation that future work on indicators of management planning and management effectiveness (in the context of Emerald Network sufficiency assessments, CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for the GBF work, initiatives by IUCN, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and others) be considered as a basis for possible additional indicator(s) for the Strategic Plan;
- A recommendation to look into linkages between the Strategic Plan and other instruments of the Bern Convention for implementation, including action plans.

### **4. Any other business**

There was no other business, and so the Chair closed the meeting.

## APPENDIX I - AGENDA OF THE MEETING

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
  - [\[Vision for the Bern Convention\]](#)
  - [\[List of members of the WG\]](#)
2. Strategic Plan:
  - a. Recap of the decisions of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee and Bureau
  - b. Outcomes of CBD COP15 as context for the Bern Convention Strategic Plan: the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
    - [\[Outcomes of CBD COP15 as context for the Bern Convention Strategic Plan\]](#)
  - c. Recap on the results of the consultations on the targets and indicators
    - [\[8<sup>th</sup> Draft Strategic Plan\]](#)
  - d. Discussion and resolution of outstanding elements of the Plan
    - [\[Compilation of comments received on the 8<sup>th</sup> draft with responses and proposals from the Chair and Consultant\]](#)
  - e. Discussion on the proposed Glossary
    - [\[Draft Glossary\]](#)
3. Next steps and timeline
4. Any other business

## APPENDIX II - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Contracting Parties	Name and Function
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>Mr Jan PLESNIK (Chair of the Working Group)</b> Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic
<b>Estonia</b>	<b>Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI (Chair of the Standing Committee)</b> Senior Officer Nature Conservation Department Ministry of the Environment
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>Ms Salome NOZADZE</b> Third Category Senior Specialist Biodiversity and Forest Department Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Ms Linnea SUNDBLAD</b> Senior technical advisor, biodiversity Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>Ms Danielle HOFMANN</b> Collaboratrice scientifique Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV Division Biodiversité et paysage Section Faune sauvage et conservation des espèces
<b>Türkiye</b>	<b>Mr Emrah BOZKAYA</b> General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks Ministry of Agriculture and Forest
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>Mr Simon MACKOWN</b> Head of Species Recovery and Reintroductions Policy National Biodiversity and Ivory Team, Wildlife Division, Defra  <b>Mr James WILLIAMS</b> Biodiversity Indicators Manager UK Scientific Councillor for the Convention on Migratory Species Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Observers	Name and Function
<b>EUROPARC Federation</b>	<b>Ms Stefania PETROSILLO</b> Policy Officer in charge of Sustainable Agriculture in Protected Areas Policy Officer for the relations with the Council of Europe Coordinator of the EUROPARC Transboundary Parks Programme Brussels
<b>FACE European Federation for Hunting and Conservation</b>	<b>Ms Sabrina DIETZ</b> Wildlife Policy Officer Belgium
<b>IAF International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey</b>	<b>Mr Julian MÜHLE</b> IAF Education Director
<b>Planta Europa</b>	<b>Ms Erika PENZESNE KONYA</b> Vice-Chair

	France
<b>Pro Natura - Friends of the Earth</b>	<b>Mr Friedrich WULF</b> Head, International Biodiversity Policy Switzerland
<b>Independent consultant</b>	<b>Name and Function</b>
	<b>Mr David E. PRITCHARD</b>
<b>Council of Europe Secretariat</b>	<b>Name and Function</b>
	<p><b>Mr Gianluca SILVESTRINI</b> Head ad interim of the Department for Culture, Nature and Heritage, Head of the Biodiversity Division</p> <p><b>Mr Mikaël POUTIERS</b> Secretary of the Bern Convention</p> <p><b>Mr Eoghan KELLY</b> Bern Convention Project officer</p>