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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

43rd meeting

Strasbourg, 27 November – 1 December 2023

**Draft Recommendation on the implementation of the
Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to
2030**

*Document prepared by
the Secretariat of the Bern Convention*



Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. ... (2023) of the Standing Committee, adopted on XX, on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030:

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the overall objective of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats as stipulated in the Articles of the Treaty;

Recalling the success and longevity of the Bern Convention as a Treaty of the Council of Europe, having been ratified by 51 Contracting Parties and endured since 1979;

Recalling that in the decades since its establishment, the existence of multiple actors in the field of biodiversity has increased dramatically, and thus there is a greater need to form strategic partnerships and ensure more targeted activities;

Acknowledging the excellent cooperation already established over the decades with fellow multilateral environmental agreements, the European Commission, and other organisations, both governmental and non-governmental;

Recalling [Resolution No. 7 \(2000\)](#) “on the medium-term strategic development of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats”;

Stressing that the conservation of biological diversity is an essential component for quality of life and a part of the human right to a healthy environment and taking into account, in this context, the human dimension of the activities promoted under the Convention;

Welcoming the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) which has been adopted in December 2022 by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);

Welcoming the European Union (EU) Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 which has been adopted in May 2020;

Recognising the existence of other global and regional biodiversity strategies as well as related strategies and plans in the field of climate change, sustainability, nature restoration, not least the UN sustainable development goals to 2030;

Recalling the Vision for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 adopted by the Standing Committee in 2021, which affirms that the Parties expect to see 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.”;

Considering the commitment of the Heads of State and Government expressed in the Reykjavík Declaration to strengthen the work at the Council of Europe on the human rights aspects of the environment based on the political recognition of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right and its prioritisation in the Programme and Budget for 2024-2027;

Taking into consideration that, following the adoption of the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030, achievement of the targets of the Strategic Plan can entail different contexts and challenges for the individual Contracting Parties, but that overall success shall be based on progress of the entirety of the Parties;

Taking into consideration the important role that the Observers of the Convention (such as NGOs, international organisations, experts, scientists, academia) shall have in assisting the Contracting Parties in fulfilment of the goals and achievement of the related targets;

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. reflect relevant elements of the Vision and Strategic Plan to 2030 [(in Appendix D)] in national policies and related measures in relation to the conservation of wild flora and fauna and their habitats;
2. ensure that National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and equivalent instruments support implementation of the Strategic Plan;
3. at each Standing Committee meeting, report on any major national updates regarding progress with the Strategic Plan such as in relation to point 1 and 2 of this Recommendation;

Instructs the Secretariat to:

4. further advance technical work on the Monitoring Framework and indicators for the Strategic Plan, in particular indicators relating to the Emerald Network, including management planning and management effectiveness, as support for the implementation of relevant targets in the Strategic Plan;
5. consider linkages between the Strategic Plan and other instruments of the Bern Convention for implementation, including action plans;
6. undertake a midterm review of the Strategic Plan in 2027 and, if necessary, make proposals for the intensification of efforts where progress towards particular targets is considered insufficient, and for adjustments to elements of the Plan that may be needed in light of the findings of the review;
7. in advance of the Plan's end-date in 2030, conduct an analysis of the Plan's implementation, assessing its strengths, weaknesses, successes, and areas of required improvement, as a basis for potentially elaborating a new Strategic Plan for the succeeding decade;
8. convene as needed a Working Group on Strategic Plan matters in order to support implementation of the above tasks.