



Strasbourg, 6 December 2024

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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

44th meeting
Strasbourg, 2 - 6 December 2024

Terms of Reference of the Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention

I. BACKGROUND

At its 44th meeting in December 2024, the Bern Convention Standing Committee discussed the possibility of devising a dedicated evidence-based mechanism and criteria for granting or changing the protection status of a species in order to ensure that the process is objective, transparent and supports the Standing Committee in fulfilling its role. The Standing Committee also considered that it could be time to review Recommendation No. 56 (1997) concerning guidelines to be taken into account while making proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention and while adopting amendments.

Advancing towards that goal, bearing in mind Recommendation No. 56 (1997), the Standing Committee decided to set up a Working Group on exploring mechanisms to guide amendments to the appendices of the Bern Convention, particularly to develop criteria for amending appendices I, II & III to the Bern Convention.

II. SCOPE

Considering Bern Convention Standing Committee Recommendation No. 56 (1997) concerning guidelines to be taken into account while making proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention and while adopting amendments, and the need expressed by the Bern Convention Standing Committee for a dedicated evidenced-based mechanism and criteria for granting or changing the protection status of a species, the Working Group is requested to:

- Make recommendations to the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention on setting up, as appropriate, a mechanism to evaluate proposals for granting or modifying the protection status of fauna and flora species in the framework of the Bern Convention and, if deemed appropriate, to advise on other evidence-based decisions, bearing in mind the framework of the Bern Convention and the practice in other international treaties related to nature conservation.
- Advise the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention on any changes to the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee deemed necessary to implement such a mechanism.

III. COMPOSITION

The Working Group will comprise representatives of Contracting Parties and Observers to the Bern Convention and may comprise other relevant third parties as deemed necessary.

The Working Group will select one Chair from amongst its members.

IV. WORKING METHODS

The members of the Working Group 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 Working Group will determine its own meeting frequency. The Working Group shall operate by online means.

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

The Working Group will report to the 45th Standing Committee to the Bern Convention.

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 Working Group and any other support activities deemed necessary.