



Bern Convention: Emerald Network of Nature Protection Sites

CoE/EU program

Emerald Network

- The Emerald Network is an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. Its implementation was launched by the Council of Europe as part of its work under the Bern Convention, with the adoption of Recommendation No. 16 (1989) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention.
- <https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/emerald-network>

Bern Convention

- The Emerald Network under the **Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats** is set-up to ensure that all high biodiversity areas of European importance are identified, their ecological inventories completed and their importance recognised legally.
- The identified Emerald Network sites will then benefit from adequate protection, while allowing human social and economic activities and encouraging sustainable human-nature interaction.

The European Union/Council of Europe project

- Joint Programme on the Emerald Network for seven countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine seven,. The first project 2009-2011 aimed to identify and describe the areas in the countries suitable to be included in the Emerald Network,
- The second project, 2012-2016, focuses on Phase II of the Emerald Network constitution process.
- <https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/projects>

Emerald Network

- This **objective** is the **long term survival of the species and habitats of the Bern Convention requiring specific protection measures**. These habitats and species are listed respectively in Resolution No. 4 (1996) and Resolution No. 6 (1998) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention.

Project overall objective

- The overall objective of the project is improved biodiversity protection - especially the long-term survival of threatened European species and habitats - through the implementation of Emerald sites in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

Project specific objectives

- Specifically, the project aims at achieving a full operational launch of the Pan-European Emerald network of nature protection sites of the Bern Convention by 2020, thereby:
- (i) supporting the implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and its Aichi Targets on protected areas by the ENP East countries and Russia,
- (ii) aligning nature protection standards in this region with the standards of EU (and its Natura 2000 Network) and the Bern Convention and
- (iii) helping the target countries prepare for the future management of these areas.

Main outcomes

- Lists of Emerald species and habitats
- Reference Tables on Emerald species and habitats/ ecological data
- GIS boundaries for species/habitats
- GIS Emerald sites
- Biogeographic seminars
- Approval process under the Bern Convention
- Monitoring, reporting and management