

**Preliminary analysis of the species
proposed by 7 Contracting Parties and Observer States¹ for addition
to the Bern Convention lists of species for the Emerald Network**

April 3013

1. Introduction

During the 1st EU/CoE Joint Project on the setting-up of the Emerald Network (2009-2011), the national teams from the 7 countries involved noted that the species and habitats in need of special site protection, listed on the Bern Convention Resolutions 4 (1996) and 6 (1998), are mainly Western Europe based. Countries decided to start working on proposals, to be made to the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention for amending the Resolutions and therefore to remedy this situation. To date, only species were sufficiently proposed to start a joint analysis. The independently proposed species lists were merged and sent back to countries for comments on the proposals made by the other countries. At the last Steering Committee meeting of the 1st EU/CoE project, October 2011, the national teams requested that a preliminary assessment of the validity of the proposals at international level is performed.

This document describes the procedure followed to achieve this preliminary assessment. The results can be found in the MSAccess database “201301_proposed_species_final_reduced list”.

Important note: One needs to underline that the final actual proposal of the species to be added to the lists is a national responsibility and that this preliminary analysis should be seen as assistance work by the Bern Convention Secretariat. The final decision on proposing one or another species to the Convention decision-making bodies for inclusion in the Bern Convention lists lies in the national authorities of the concerned states.

2. Remarks on the initial data base

Initially, 640 species were proposed. After discussions during different workshops the seven countries revised the database as follows:

- AM cancelled 11 proposals, UA cancelled 12 proposals
- AM added 21 new proposals
- The boxes to be ticked for which appendix the proposal is, is ticked for the country who initially proposed the species
- In total 640 species are in the data base; taking into account the cancellations, the total number of species proposed is 617
- 172 species proposed for appendix I, 49 for appendix II, 44 for appendix III and 506 species proposed for Res. 6
- If the disagreements “PD” are taken into account together with the “CA’s”, there are 544 species left, of which 463 are proposed for Res. 6

¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine

The table below represents the distribution over the different species groups:

Group	Number of species initially proposed	Number taking into account "CA"	Number taking into account "CA" and "PD"
Amphibians	4	4	4
Birds	47	47	34
Fishes	30	28	24
Invertebrates	117	113	99
Mammals	28	26	17
Plants	401	389	360
Reptiles	13	10	6
Total	640	617	544

The table below represents the number of records per evaluation category:

	AM	AZ	BY	GE	MD	RU	UA
Yes	133	18	24	38	13	286	149
No comments		21	21	44	21	21	63
?	1						
CA (cancelled)	11						12
NP (Not Present)	398	45	519	306	547	203	276
NV (Not Validated)	9		18	118	2	5	19
PA (Present, Agree)	76	556	46	122	57	90	111
PD (Present, Disagree)	12		12	12		35	10

Legend:

Yes = Number of species proposed by this country

CA = Cancelled proposal

NP = Not Present in country

NV = Not Validated

PA = Present and agreement for a proposal by another country

PD = Present but Disagreement with a proposal from another country

3. Provisional/preliminary evaluation of (Pan-) European importance of the additional species proposed

In January 2013, a coordination meeting between the EEA and CoE took place, in the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the two organizations. It was decided to perform a "mechanical" sifting of the proposed species, using existing information sources. A full scientific screening at this stage seemed to be too time consuming and premature, taking into account the status of some of the species proposed.

The following three sources of information were used:

- EUNIS species module: <http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/>
- IUCN Red List : <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- The Catalogue of Life (species 2000): <http://www.catalogueoflife.org/>

The following criteria for making suggestions were used:

- Only species proposed for Res. 6 are considered. Proposals which are made only for one of the appendices are to be handled at another level and are not directly linked with the development of the Emerald Network;
- If a species is not mentioned in none of the three sources, it is suggested for deletion from the list;
- In principle, no sub-species are taken into account; all sub-species are suggested for deletion;
- In any other case, listed in only one or two of the sources, a decision is made depending on other factors such as: unclear taxonomy, synonymy, geographical distribution, IUCN threat status, etc.;

If the tick-box “reduced” is set to “yes”, the species is provisionally suggested for deletion from the list. A short note concerning the decision is put in a separate field in the MSAccess database (“general remarks”).

4. Result of the provisional/preliminary evaluation

The results of this work can be summarized as follows in the table below. The number in the first column is the number of species records left over after each operation:

Number	Operation
640	Initial number of proposed species
506	Only proposals for Res. 6 taken in to account
467	Species proposed for Res. 6, but already listed in the other appendices from the Convention and removal of all proposed subspecies;
437	Species cancelled by the countries (CA) + disagreements from other countries (PD);
432	Species already listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive, but not listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive;
427	Bird species already listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive and already added to Res. 6 during the last revision; or already listed in the appendices of the Bern Convention
206	Any other reason on taxonomy, geographical distribution (clear presence in several EU countries), etc ... (mammals -1, Fish -3, plants -149, invertebrates -50)

At the end of these operations, the list contains 206 species, distributed as follows:

Number of species per group in the reduced list	
Group	Number
Birds	1
Fishes	8
Invertebrates	39
Mammals	5
Plants	150
Reptiles	3

5. Conclusions

From the initially proposed 640 species, 206 are remaining after a “mechanical sift” based on three internationally recognized information sources. It is important to underline again that this reduction

does not represent a final judgment on the acceptability of the species, as no detailed ecological analysis was performed. The following recommendations are made to countries:

Recommendation 1: Countries are advised to screen the suggested deletions in the MSAccess database and eventually re-propose some of the species based on scientific evidence on their European importance.

Recommendation 2: For species with unclear taxonomy, this uncertainty should first be clarified before their European importance can be assessed.

Recommendation 3: Special attention during the screening process can be given to species which have an IUCN category status, including their need for specific site protection:

Species with IUCN category		
Group	Species name	General remarks
B	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	IUCN Red List: Vulnerable C2a(ii)
F	<i>Barbus tauricus</i>	IUCN Red List: Vulnerable B1ab(i,ii,iii,v)
F	<i>Caspiomyzon wagneri</i>	IUCN Red List: Near Threatened
F	<i>Clupeonella abrau</i>	IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered B1ab(ii,iii,v)+2ab(ii,iii,v)
F	<i>Cobitis taurica</i>	not (yet) mentioned in EUNIS; IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered B1ab(ii,iii)+2ab(ii,iii)
F	<i>Hucho taimen</i>	IUCN Red List: Vulnerable A2bcd
I	<i>Ischnura aralensis</i>	IUCN Red List: Near Threatened
I	<i>Libellula pontica</i> Selys, 1887	not (yet) mentioned in EUNIS; IUCN Red List: Near Threatened
I	<i>Nehalennia speciosa</i> (Sharpenier, 1840)	IUCN Red List: Near Threatened; present in several EU countries
I	<i>Onconotus servillei</i>	IUCN Red List: Vulnerable B2d+3b
M	<i>Meriones dahli</i>	IUCN Red List: Endangered B1ab(iii)
M	<i>Sicista armenica</i>	IUCN Red List: Endangered B1ab(iii)
M	<i>Spalax arenarius</i>	IUCN Red List: Endangered B1ab(ii,iii)+2ab(ii,iii)
M	<i>Spalax giganteus</i>	IUCN Red List: Vulnerable B2ab(iii)
M	<i>Spalax zemni</i>	IUCN Red List: Vulnerable B2ab(ii,iii)
P	<i>Allium pervestitum</i> Klokov	IUCN Red List: Endangered B1ab(iii,iv)+2ab(iii,iv)
P	<i>Daphne altaica</i> Pall. (incl. <i>D. sophia</i> Kalinicz., <i>D. taurica</i> Kotov)	" <i>Daphne altaica</i> " not mentioned in EUNIS; IUCN Red List: Data deficient; " <i>Daphne sophia</i> " IUCN Red List: Endangered B2ab(iii,iv); <i>Daphne taurica</i> not mentioned in EUNIS and NOT in catalogue of Life; need for clarification on taxonomy, provisionally deleted
P	<i>Daphne sophia</i> Kalen.	IUCN Red List: Endangered B2ab(iii,iv)
P	<i>Medicago saxatilis</i> M.Bieb.	IUCN Red List: Endangered B1ab(ii,iii)+2ab(ii,iii)
R	<i>Eremias pleskei</i>	not (yet) mentioned in EUNIS; IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered A2c
R	<i>Phrynocephalus horvathi</i>	not (yet) mentioned in EUNIS; IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered A2c
R	<i>Vipera dinniki</i>	IUCN Red List: Vulnerable B1ab(iii,v)

Recommendation 4: It should be investigated if the relatively high numbers of Invertebrate and Plant species cannot be handled through the protection of their specific habitat. If this habitat is already mentioned in Resolution 4, it can be suggested to add the species names to the Interpretation Manual of Resolution 4 habitats, rather than listing the species separately on Resolution 6. If the habitat is not listed yet, one could investigate if such habitat needs to be listed in the Resolution 4 (1996).

Recommendation 5: Countries are advised to concentrate on species to be added to Resolution 6 (1998) of species requiring specific site conservation at (Pan-) European level. If the decision is taken by national authorities to propose a species to be added to the Resolution 6 (1996), the Information Form for new Species and Habitats (available on the Emerald Network Reference Portal: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/EcoNetworks/Presentation_en.) should be thoroughly filled in and officially send to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention **before the 1 July of each year.**