

European drivers for good landscape and biodiversity governance in Eastern Europe

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Development of the Emerald network in Russia: coherence between Bern and national approaches and criteria

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Official relations between Russian Federation and the Bern Convention

- As a Member of the Council of Europe Russian Federation is **Observer State** at the Sessions of the Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats
- and invited to appoint experts to the meetings of technical committees under the Convention;
- In fact Russian Federation participates in the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network, first of all – the Emerald Network

Basis of coherence: legislation

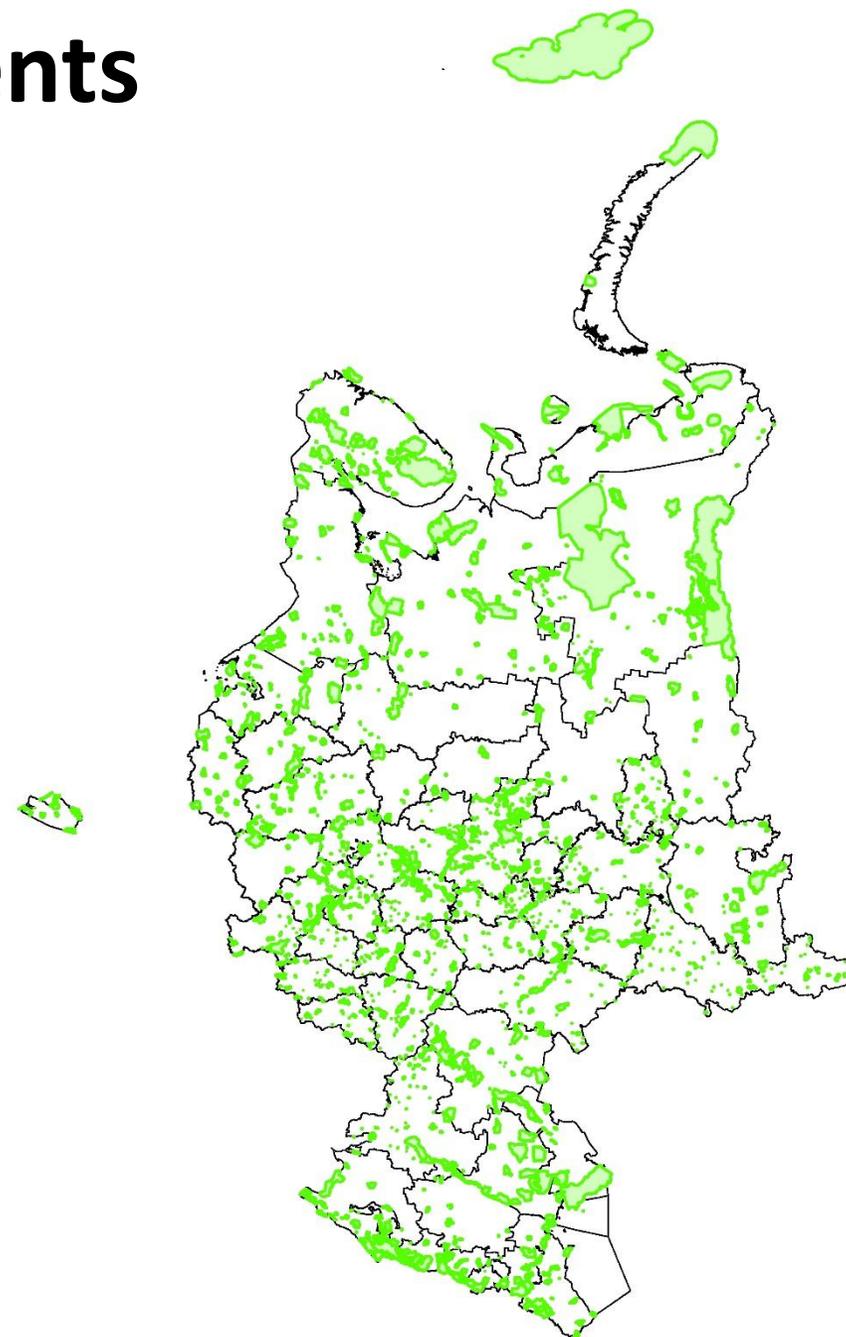
- Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats – how to translate in Russian for reaching the coherence?
 - Конвенция о сохранении европейской дикой природы и **естественной (или природной) среды [not «сред», only singular in Russian!] обитания [not «местообитаний»!]**
- Природная среда (Natural habitat) is a statutory term in Russian Environmental legislation.
- Therefore, we act in line with Russian legislation when we act in the spirit of the Bern Convention.

Setting-up the Emerald Network in European Russia

- Supervised by Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation
- Realised under Joint EU / CoE Programmes «Support for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)'s Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the EU Neighbourhood Policy East Area and Russia» (2009-2011) and «Emerald Network of Nature Protection Sites», Phase II (2013-2016)
- Contributions by Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Geographical Society, several regional conservation bodies, universities, NGOs, volunteer input of about 200 experts.
- Co-ordinated by St. Petersburg Charitable Public Organization “Biologists for nature conservation”

Main achievements

- 1633 potential Emerald sites identified and mapped;
- Total area about 40,9 mln hectares (10,3 % of the Project area)
- Status of Candidate Emerald Sites



Species and habitat types of European importance in ASCI's

Groups of Species	European Russia	ASCI's
Bryophytes	11	11
Vascular plants	69	61
Mollusks	7	7
Arthropods	48	44
Cyclostomatous	3	3
Fishes	19	18
Amphibians	3	3
Reptiles	7	7
Birds	140	140
Mammals	37	36
Habitat types	About 120	106

Incoherence issues and solutions identified

1. Taxonomic issues

- using the taxonomy as of the date of the adoption of the Resolution No 6 (*Osmoderma eremita*, *Iris aphylla* ssp. *hungarica*)
- making special decision in complicate cases (*Crambe tatarica* vs *Crambe litvinovii*)

Incoherence issues and solutions identified

2. Incomplete compliance of the habitat classification by EUNIS and habitat types occurring in European Russia

- researches including field trips with further updating the classification of habitat types, may be a special scientific project
- some proposals submitted to EUNIS for adding new habitat types as occurring in Russia (for example, semi-desert landscape as a complex habitat of desert and dry steppe patches).

Incoherence issues and solutions identified

3. Incomplete coherence between the Annex to Res. 6 and red lists in force in Russia

European Russia	Bern Conv., Res. No 6	Federal Red List	Both lists	coherence	Res-6 adequacy	P-E importance
Plants	84	323	29	7.67%	34.52%	8.98%
Invertebrates	54	46	5	5.26%	9.26%	10.87%
Pisces and Cyclosts	17	30	7	17.50%	41.18%	23.33%
Amphibians and Reptiles	9	19	3	12.00%	33.33%	15.79%
Birds	140	64	61	42.66%	43.57%	95.31%
Mammals	36	35	22	44.90%	61.11%	62.86%
Total in considered groups	340	517	127	17.40%	37.35%	24.56%

- checking the high quality of habitats of the “Emerald” species by the presence of vulnerable locally red-listed species in the same site

All-Russian Environmental Forum. Vladimir City. 23-25/08/2017

Decisions about next tasks for the Emerald Network in Russia:

- Supporting the full adoption of the identified Emerald sites for beginning the national designation of the adopted ASCI's
- Developing public support of the Emerald Network
- Expanding the Emerald Network to the Asian Russia

How to make Bern Convention more attractive?

- The Convention should make benefits for peoples and states.
- Regionalization of priority lists under Bern Convention, including presumption to Member States of right to add new items in the list with implementation of such amendments on the territories of Member States that have agreed to this.
- Granting of advantages in the market to the land users, saving Emerald sites on their land plots (may be through a green labeling).
- Practical transcontinental projects (green corridors along pipelines for nature could move from the East to the West?!).



Thank you for your attention!