



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 6 September 2004
[T-PVS Emerald 05e.04]

T-PVS/Emerald (2004) 5
English only

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Group of Experts for the setting up
of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest**

**Joint meeting of the Ecological Networks of the Council of Europe
Krakow (Poland), 5-6 October 2004**

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**Working Programme
for the development of the Emerald Network
in the Russian Federation**

**presented by the “Biodiversity Conservation Centre”
(Russian Federation)**

*Document prepared by
the Charitable Foundation “Biodiversity Conservation Centre”
(Russian Federation)*

№	Actions	Data	Expected results
1	Public support of ECONET	2004-2006	1. Activist network of ECONET supervisors. 2. Dissemination of Russian versions of documents related to PEEN
2	Revelation of Areas of Special Conservation Interest and including them into ECONET at regional and local levels	2004-2006	1. International criteria of ASCI revelation being the most applicable in European Russia. 2. Materials identifying international importance of the main Protected Areas of European Russia currently having no international nominations. 3. Regional and local sections of the ECONET designed and established in line with international importance of the main Protected Areas (Central Russian plain, Volga and Viatka region, Pintu-Sebezh-Osvey region, Lower Volga, Northern Caucasus and oth.).
3	Preparation of materials for Joint meeting of ECONET experts of the Council of Europe (Poland, October 2004)	August – September 2004	1. Report on the Establishment of the Ecological Network in Russian Federation. 2. Report on the results of mapping Intact Forest Areas of the Northern Eurasia.
4	Contribution to the establishment of the Marine and Coastal Ecological Network	August – November 2004	Web-site on the Marine and Coastal Ecological Network

BCC Programme Coordinator: N.A. Sobolev

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Project name. Designation of Areas of Special Conservation Interest in model regions of European Russia

Organisation. Biodiversity Conservation Centre (BCC)

Timeframe. 2004-2006

Rationale.

Relatively low disturbed natural areas cover considerable part of the European Russia – see Indicative Map of PEEN for CEE. There are many habitats of animal and plant species being of high conservation priority according to the Bern Convention.

The first pilot project in Russia concerning the designation of Areas of Special Conservation Interest had been carried out in Republic of Karelia in 1999: 26 Areas of Special Conservation Interest had been designated. Although the territory of Republic of Karelia is situated in the Western part of the European Russia, the conclusion had been taken about a great specificity of Russian nature when implementing the Emerald Network.

It is to be admitted that natural and social conditions are very different across the European part of Russia. The territory of Republic of Karelia belongs to the taiga natural zone (Boreal biogeographical region).

It is very convenient to designate Areas of Special Conservation Interest in the Continental, Steppic, Alpine, and Black Sea biogeographical regions, as well as in the southern part of the Boreal biogeographical region having significant specificity both in flora and fauna.

Broad pilot project concerning the designation of Areas of Special Conservation Interest in several biogeographical regions within European Russia will be the most effective in the territories of current projects of the ECONET establishing, as such territories are more covered by field investigations

concerning rare and endangered species. At the same time the designation of Areas of Special Conservation Interest in the regions where ECONET is under active planning will be very useful as a forcible argument for establishing or improving conservation regime.

BCC has a good base for such pilot project, as it has realized several ECONET projects from the Central Russian plain at the North to Near-Caspian lowland at the South and so collected considerable information pool related to all kinds of Natural Areas may be of Special Conservation Interest. BCC experts have been familiarized with principles of filling Emerald Database due to participation in the seminar of the Council of Europe in Moscow, 1999, and in some other similar events. BCC expert network can provide the project team with additional information if necessary.

Project objectives. To designate Areas of Special Conservation Interest in the Boreal (southern part), Continental, Steppic, Alpine, and Black Sea biogeographical regions in order to notify them to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention.

Activities.

The project team will include specialists experienced in Emerald Network implementation in Russia (at least one of the key experts of the first pilot project), experts in different groups of species and regional coordinators, at least for the Central Russian plain, Volga and Viatka region, Volga and Ural region, Lower Volga region, Northern Caucasus.

At the project beginning BCC will organize a workshop of the project team in order to familiarize all its members with Emerald Network, i.e. the work with Emerald Database, and to determine concrete administrative regions should be involved in the designation of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.

The project team will analyse results of field researches accomplished before in each regions and reveal natural areas seems to be of Special Conservation Interest. Subsequently experts will compare descriptions of revealed natural areas with requirements of conditions for designation Areas of Special Conservation Interest. In cases of necessity short and well-targeted field researches may be carried out.

The data on natural areas designated as Areas of Special Conservation Interest will be included in Emerald Database and transmitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources for further notifying them to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention.

At the same time the results of the project will be placed on the BCC web-site and published in a special issue of the BCC conservation magazine. Appropriate parts of data on designated Areas of Special Conservation Interest will be addressed to corresponding regional and local conservation agencies, land users, and NGOs in order to push them to develop special regime of conservation management.

Calendar.

Preliminary consultations and coordination with Ministry of Natural Resources and Council of Europe bodies	August – October 2004
Project team recruitment	November 2004
Project team workshop, selection of administrative regions involved in the project	December 2004
Designation of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (Desk study)	January – July 2005
Designation of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (Short field trips)	April – September 2005
Filling the Emerald Database by the data on designated Areas of Special Conservation Interest	August – December 2005
Presentation of the project results to the Ministry of Natural Resources	December 2005
Presentation of appropriate parts of the project results to corresponding regional and local conservation agencies, land users, and NGOs	December 2005 – February 2006
Publishing project results, compiling final report	January – March 2006

Outputs.

1. Emerald Database with data on Areas of Special Conservation Interest designated in at least 15 administrative regions of European Russia in the Boreal (southern part), Continental, Steppic, Alpine, and Black Sea biogeographical regions.
2. The data on the Areas of Special Conservation Interest (CD and written copy) transmitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources for further notifying them to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention.
3. The data on the Areas of Special Conservation Interest (CD and written copy) transmitted to corresponding regional and local conservation agencies, land users, and NGOs.
4. Web-page on Areas of Special Conservation Interest of European Russia on the BCC web-site.
5. A special issue of the BCC conservation magazine devoted to Areas of Special Conservation Interest designated in European Russia.

Budget.

	total	BCC input	requested
Salaries (incl. taxes)	9000	5600	3400
Travel and subsistence	10000	4000	6000
Equipment	600	300	300
Materials	400	200	200
Publications	3000	1500	1500
Fax, phone, mail	400	200	200
Internet, e-mail	400	200	200
Electricity, heating	400	200	200
Total	24200	12200	12000