



Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

Arctic Biodiversity Congress

Value and endangered Species and Habitats in the Arctic: criteria and approaches to conservation

The Emerald Network in the Eur. Arctic

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Trondheim, 4 December 2014

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

Convention de Berne
Bern Convention



Réseau Émeraude
Emerald Network



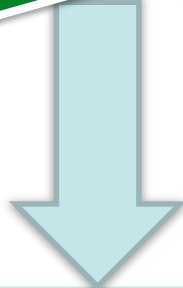
Presentation Plan

- **Short intro to the Bern Convention and the Emerald Network**
- **Geographical Area of Implementation**
- **Evaluation process of the proposed Emerald Sites (Phase II)**
- **Recommendations and Limitations**





Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest



- Launched back in '89 – legal framework developed further in 25 years (Recommendation 16 (1989));
- Tool for the implementation of the [Bern Convention](#) (1979);
- In general: Aims at conserving European wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats and promotes European co-operation in the field;
- Specific aim: to ensure the long term survival of species and habitats in need of specific site conservation measures;
- Specific Lists of targeted Species & Habitats drafted in the '90;



Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest

- **Phase 1:** *identification* of the areas suitable to ensure the long term survival of the Species & Habitats of the Resolutions
- **Phase 2:** Scientific independent *evaluation* of the sufficiency of these sites to achieve the Network objectives at biogeographical level
- **Phase 3:** *national designation* of the approved Emerald sites and planning and implementation of conservation objectives and management measures



Criteria for the evaluation of the Emerald site proposals

Convention de Berne
Bern Convention



Réseau Émeraude
Emerald Network

- Evaluation at species by species/habitat by habitat basis;
- Looking if the network of proposed sites covers:
 - the full distribution range/patterns of the S/H;
 - the ecological variation of the S/H;
 - the whole range of habitats needed for the life-cycle
 - a reasonable share of the national population or area

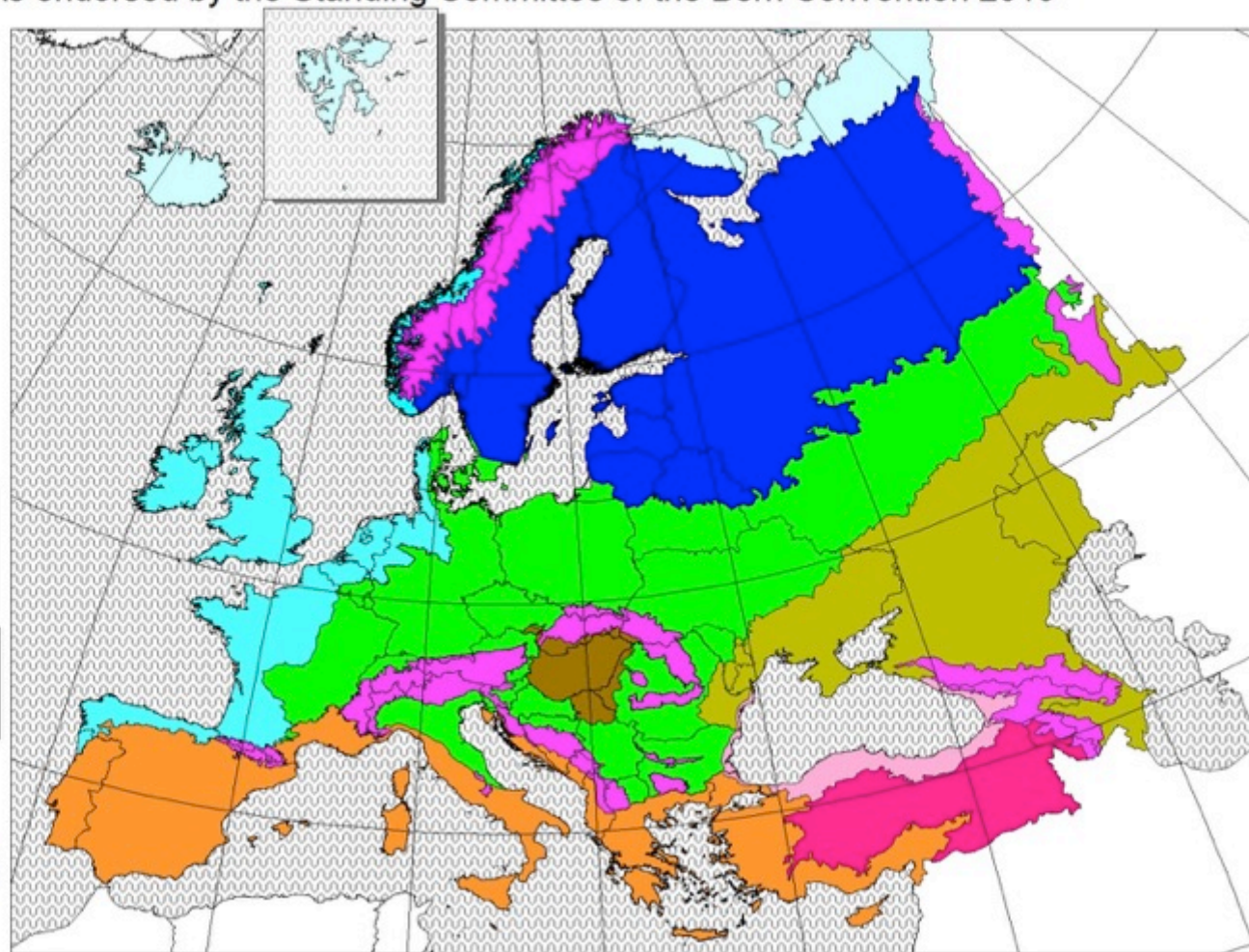




Evaluation at Biogeographical level

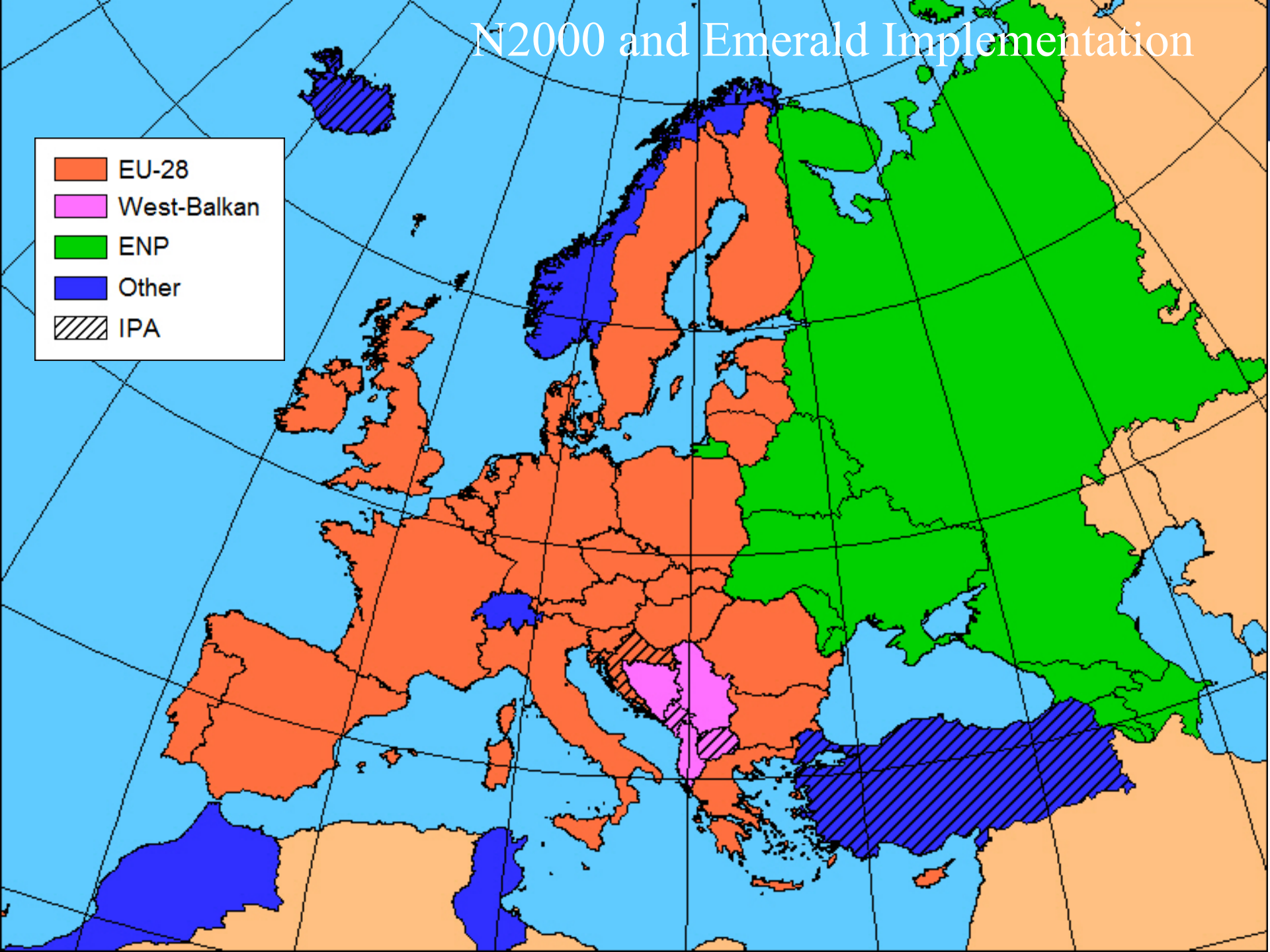
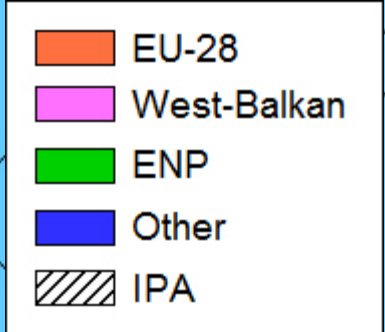
Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest
Extention of the Biogeographical Regions map of NATURA 2000 to the European Continent
 As endorsed by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention 2010

- Arctic
- Mediterranean
- Macaronesian
- Alpine
- Atlantic
- Continental
- Boreal
- Black Sea
- Anatolian
- Pannonian
- Steppic



The Biogeographical map developed under Council Directive 92/43/CEE (NATURA 2000) formed the basis for this Pan-European extension. 5 Biogeographical regions were added (Arctic, Pannonian, Steppic, Black Sea and Anatolian).

N2000 and Emerald Implementation



The Emerald Network coverage (2013)

Country	Number of sites	Total AREA (ha)	% country coverage
Albania	25	522 430,00	18,20
Armenia	13	296 326,28	9,88
Azerbaijan	12	845 538,42	9,72
Belarus	16	980 626,00	4,71
Bosnia-Herzegovina	29	250 455,00	4,90
FYR of Macedonia	35	754 383,00	29,30
Georgia	21	919 934,05	13,20
Moldova	18	388 465,00	11,53
Montenegro	32	240 077,00	17,10
Morocco	11	572 820,00	1,28
Norway	633	4 296 073,74	11,15
Russia	923	31 163 623,34	+ - 8,00
Serbia	61	1 021 078,00	11,60
Switzerland	37	64 216,00	1,55
Ukraine	151	4 446 178,20	7,36



CAFF participating countries (02/2014)

Number of sites and total area			
Country	Number	Total AREA (ha)	% country coverage
Emerald			
Norway	633	4 296 073	11,15
Russia (Eur. Part)	923	31 163 623	+ - 8,00
N2000 (according to EU-Barometer)			
Finland	1839	5 598 624	14,45
Sweden	4072	6 673 857	13,84



End 2013 = room for improvement:

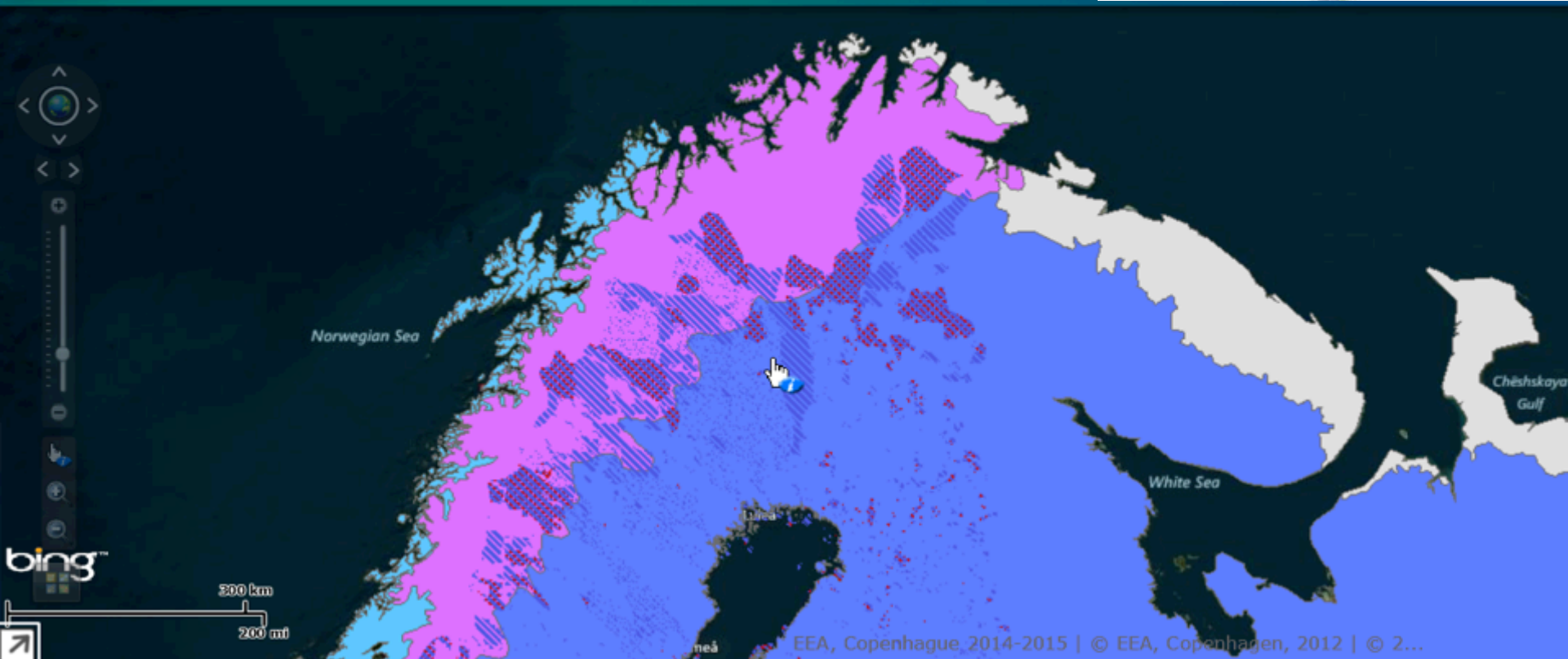
- Countries with rather small number of sites
- Preference for big sites at national level
- Some species groups not well studied

✓ 1154 sites in 7 countries
✓ 9,2 % of country territories
✓ Varies from 1 country to another





Natura 2000 Network Viewer





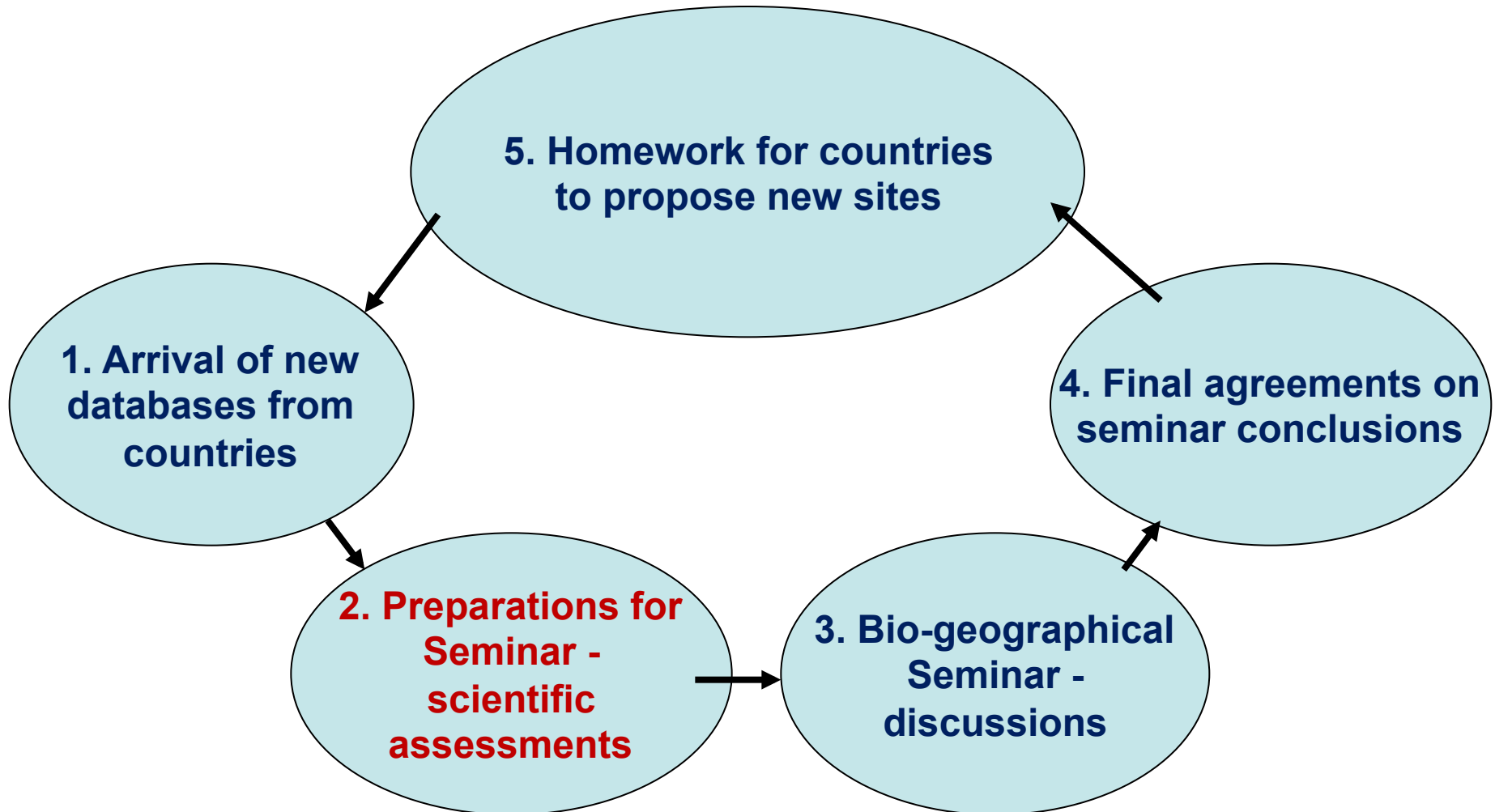
Why sufficiency evaluation?

- We can speak about Emerald Sites as a network only when it is truly coherent and serves for protection of all Habitats and Species of the Resolution 4 and 6 of the Bern Convention;
- Yet this has to be scientifically scrutinized!
- The aim is not to criticise but to help





Sufficiency evaluation cycle as iterative process





Subjects for Sufficiency Evaluation

- All Species of Res. 6 and all Habitats of Res. 4 of the Bern Convention that occur in a particular country and its bio-geographical region(s)
- but no bio-geographical regions distinguished for birds
- Creation of an “official” Reference Lists





Information for Sufficiency Evaluation

- Preliminary evaluation is done by the Council of Europe consultants/experts (in the case of Natura 2000 – European Topic Centre for Biological Diversity)
- Evaluation is to verify the information from the countries (Standard Data Forms) and spatial information against the reference information from **different sources**
- Information is collected from these different sources





Information for sufficiency evaluation



Country database



- Atlases
- Red Books
- Reporting Information
- Action Plans
- Published Papers and Books
- On-line Databases
- Shadow Lists
- Project Reports and grey literature

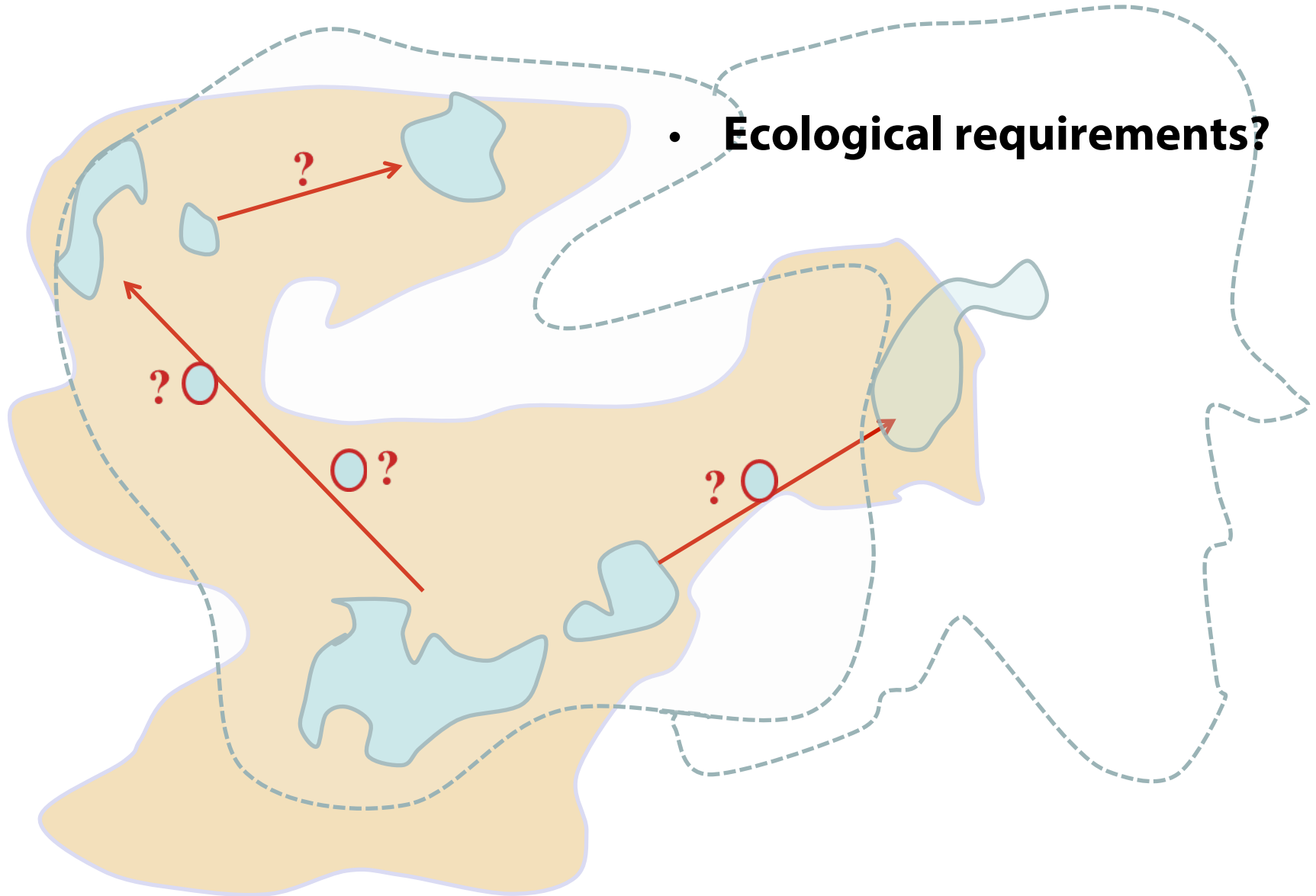


How much is sufficient? Criteria

- Distribution range
- Ecological variation
- Particular conservation needs linked with distribution patterns
- **As a consequence a sufficient proportion of a national population is covered by the Emerald Network**

= only scientific arguments considered valid!







How much is 'significant proportion' of a national resource?

- No strict numeric mechanism for decision-making!
- Decisions made as a result of discussion and exchange of opinions
- Case-to-case approach
- So, there is a need for a bio-geographical seminar!



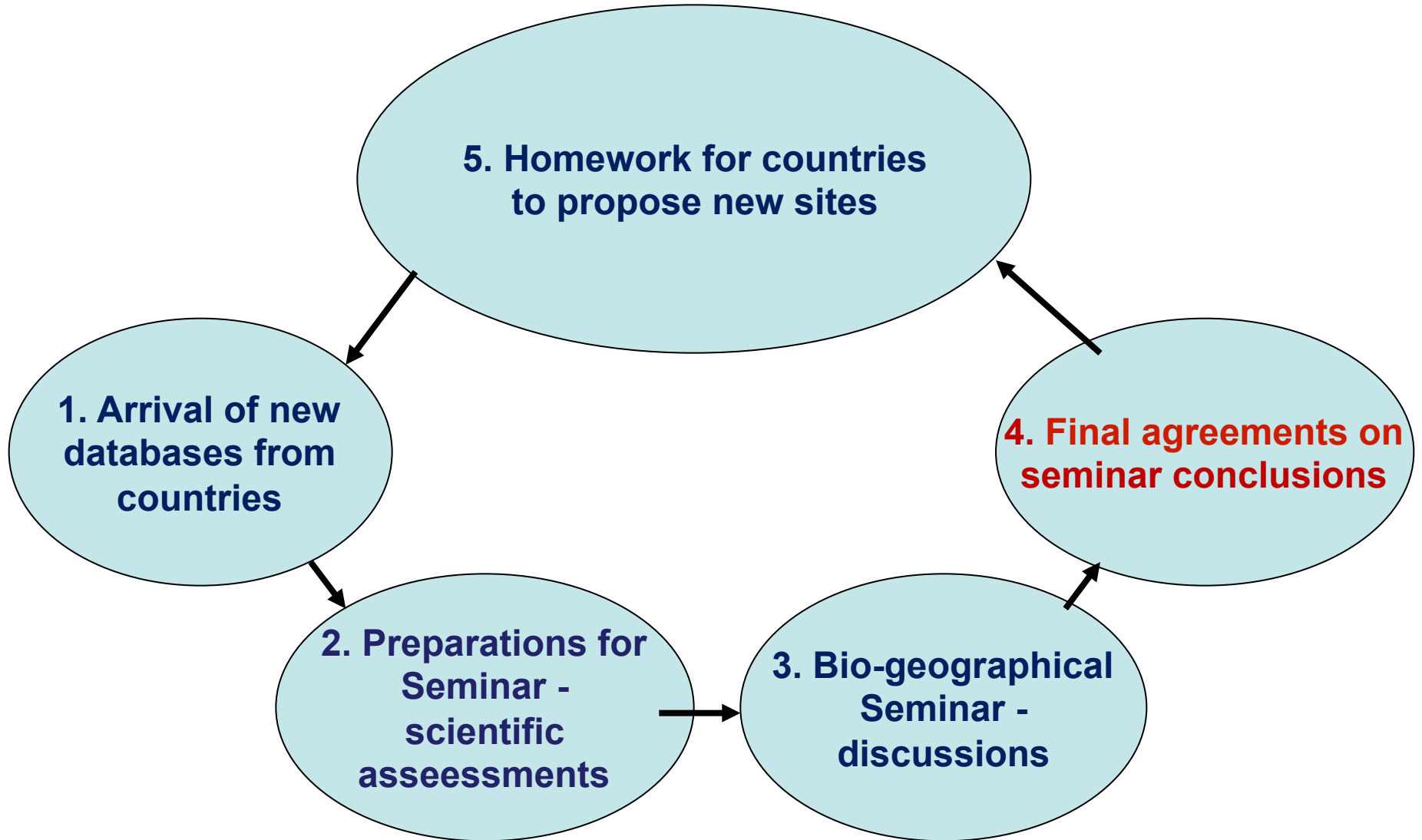


Bio-geographical Seminar: aims

- To *agree* on Reference Lists;
- To *discuss* national proposals species by species, habitat by habitat;
- To *conclude* on sufficiency of site proposals for each feature (i.f.o. long-term survival ...);
- To *draw* timeline for additional site proposals...

... and the process enters a new cycle







Emerald Calendar 2020

- By 2020, all contracting parties and observer states contributing to the process will have completed the Network of Special Areas of Conservation;
- For EU countries, NATURA2000 is considered to be the contribution under the Bern Convention;
- Specific time-line established for each group of countries;
- For the 7-ENP countries, the budget is ensured up to 2017



Conclusions and Recommendations in the framework of Arctic Biodiversity



- The setting-up of the Emerald Network under the Bern Convention clearly contributes to the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (o.a. rec. 5a and 5b, 6, ...);
- Emerald Network is in need for intensive knowledge on Arctic Species and Habitats as also recognized in recommendation 13 of ABA;
- Update of the lists of targeted Species & Habitats to address specific conservation needs of Arctic Biodiversity;
- investigate further possibilities for collaboration with other actors, such as the Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate change of the Bern Convention
- What about Svalbard, Faroe Islands and Greenland ?
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Related Webpages

Emerald:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/econetworks/default_en.asp

Emerald Reference Portal:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/econetworks/portal_en.asp

EEA – EUNIS:

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/>

NATURA2000 viewer:

<http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/>



EMERALD 2000

Thank you for your attention ...