

Report on Recommendation No. 25
(1991) on conservation of natural
areas outside protected areas
proper

Dr Rob Jongman

Rob.Jongman@xs4all.nl

The information Sources

The reporting is based on

1. Reports on request of the Standing Committee (14);
2. Report for accession to the Convention (1);
3. CBD 5 reports for countries that did not reply and as addition to the reports under 1 and 2;
4. CBD 4 reports (6);
5. Additional publications from literature sources and information on the internet.

The recommendation requests to report on:

1. The possibility of taking conservation measures to improve conservation outside the protected areas of categories A and B of Resolution (73) 30;
2. Any other relevant measures taken or intended to take as well as information on the effects of measures taken.

Protection Categories in Resolution 73 (30)

- Category A, based on scientific values, all human activities prohibited;
- Category B: based on scientific values, human activities prohibited, but with areas where amenity is permissible under strict rules;
- Category C: cultural and aesthetic values; landscape protection and ecological balance being taken into consideration.
- Category D: intended for recreation but where the principles of nature conservation are observed

IUCN and Bern Convention Categories

- IUCN system developed from the 1970s until now
- IUCN definition at present *“A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values”* (Stolton et al 2013)
- Is it possible and needed to make cross-references between the six IUCN categories and the four Bern Convention Categories for global harmonisation?

Actions on Recommendation 25 carried out by the Parties to the Convention:

- I. General measures
- II. Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs)
- III. Ecological Corridors
- IV. Endangered habitat types
- V. Landscape features
- VI. Ecologically sensitive areas (coastlines and marine areas, mountains, floodplains forests)
- VII. Protected landscapes

1.1 General measures, projects, plans programmes:

- EIA and SEA do exist in most countries, although there are differences in application procedures. Sharing knowledge might be helpful
- Nature redevelopment is carried out on agricultural land, within forestry, but also on former open cast mining and military training fields

1.2 General measures, sustainable use, environmentally friendly technologies

- There is not much reporting on this item.
- All over the EU pilots are carried out on identification of HNV farming using agricultural statistics and VHR images.
- New technologies are little mentioned, but do exist, especially in combination with technology to adapt to climate change.

Climate change project lower Rhine



2. Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI)

- Most ASCIs are state owned and managed, varying 11% to 40% of the national territory;
- There is a bias on mountainous areas
- Some reports mention explicitly that the A, B, C and D categories are merged into one PA system;
- Management plans exist or are under development;
- Buffer zones are used in several countries;
- Private PAs are not mentioned in the reports, but there are many estates that are managed as PAs.



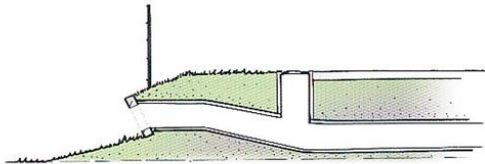
3. Ecological Corridors

- National/regional ecological networks do exist in most countries, from pilots to realisation;
- EU Green Infrastructure initiative is an important stimulus;
- The European Green Belt connects 24 countries;
- It is a challenge to harmonise and exchange expertise and knowledge;

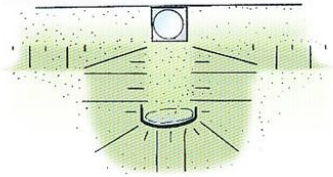
3.1 Ecological Corridors, road crossings

- The trans-European priority axes for GI can have significant benefits for resilience and vitality of Europe's ecosystems;
- Few country reports mention cooperation between biodiversity conservation and road planning, but it does exist;
- Only the Netherlands mentions a multi-annual defragmentation program.
- Knowledge sharing is important; the UNEP-WCMC initiative developing a database on ecological corridors might be instrumental

Motorway crossings in Europe



overlangse doorsnede



bovenaanzicht

Fig. 7.20 Constructie voor dassentunnel met inspectieput



Raster sluit aan op ingang dassentunnel



Dassentunnel met goede aansluiting op raster



Dassentunnel: door het schuine uiteinde zal het minder snel inregenen

3.2 Ecological corridors, water courses

- River defragmentation is often complex due to the need for regional to international cooperation between different agencies;
- There are not many concrete actions mentioned;
- The EU is important in (co)financing projects (Life, Interreg);
- The largest project is Salmon 2020, initiated by International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR).

Ecological Corridors, water courses



4. Endangered habitats:

- Many countries do report on endangered habitats and state conservation priorities;
- The Habitats Directive obligations play an important role in the EU (candidate) member states;
- There are important regional differences, but freshwater related ecosystems dominate;
- Only few marine habitats are mentioned, because of its unknown status and the recent marine protection policy.
- Great Britain is the only country mentioning kelp forests on its marine conservation web site, but not in its present reports.



5. Landscape features

- Inventories of landscape features at the municipal level do exist in some countries;
- Stratified sampling surveys are systematically carried out by the United Kingdom and Sweden and the data are used for policy at the national level.
- For management of landscape features the new CAP and RDP are mentioned in the EU and related approaches exist in Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein;

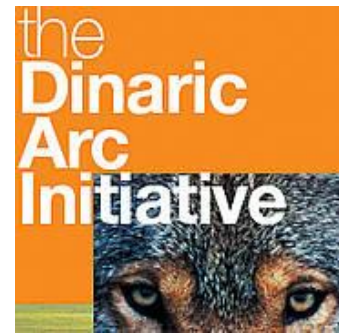
6.1 Ecologically sensitive areas, coastlines and adjacent marine areas

- Special conventions do exist for most seas around Europe and most countries do develop a Marine conservation strategy;
- For some coastal areas, such as the Waddensea there are targeted international agreements;
- Despite actions, habitat degradation and pollution remains a problem in the Baltic sea, the Black sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Caspian sea.
- Marine Protected Areas are being designated in most seas;
- Coastal restoration projects are mentioned around the Mediterranean Sea;
- River damming is a problem for anadromous fish to reach the sea.



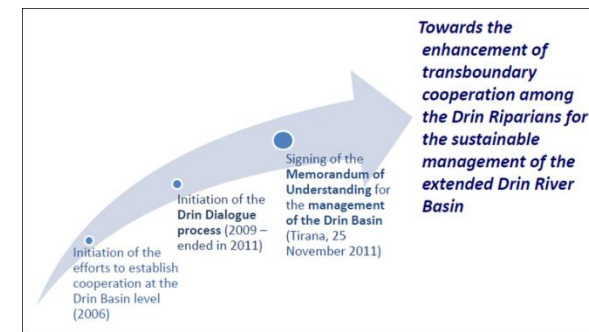
6.2 Ecologically sensitive areas, mountains

- Policy aiming on mountain management and habitats is not much reported;
- Main issues are climate change, fragmentation, ceasing mountain grassland management, increasing pressure from skiing and in Scandinavia overgrazing.
- The Carpathian and the Alpine convention aim to coordinate the different national policies;
- In the Dinaric Arc initiatives are taken to link different protected areas into a joint protected mountain system.



6.3 Ecologically sensitive areas, floodplains

- Floodplains have been reported by only a minority of the countries;
- International cooperation is mentioned for the Drin basin between Albania, Greece, FYR Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro;
- Austria has initiated several floodplain restoration projects through Life funding;
- The Rhine basin countries cooperate in restoration of the Rhine system from Switzerland to the Netherlands.



6.4 Ecologically sensitive areas, forests

- Forests are reported by all countries and in general forest area is increasing partly due to abandonment
- Less common species are being protected;
- Many forests are protected as N 2000 sites and as Woodland Key Habitats;
- Some countries mention that in general forests are now from younger age classes than in the past;
- The Forest certification schemes PEFC and FSC are increasingly applied;
- In the African countries deforestation still occurs due to poverty.

7. Protected landscapes

- The request was to set up a network of nature parks of the C and D (Resolution (73) 30);
- Only a few countries mention the existence of regional parks, others mention the integration of the four categories into one system;
- The systems of regional parks under different names do represent important nature for amenity and outdoor recreation.



Conclusions (1)

- There are differences between countries related to their economic situation. The PA system is under pressure because of financial restrictions;
- It would be beneficial to match expertise in Europe in a European capacity building programme;
- The European Union is an important driving force in the biodiversity conservation process;
- Recent policy and land use changes are important in the changes in biodiversity conservation.
- Management plans are developed or under development in most countries as part of the conservation strategy

Conclusions (2)

- There is a long tradition in Europe of nature conservation by private persons;
- Ecological networks are increasingly important;
- Endangered habitats are recognised in all countries;
- Landscape features are not inventoried country-wide, but the UK and Sweden have developed a stratified sampling system;
- Most seas, except the Caspian sea are covered by conventions;
- Mountain systems are under threat of a combination of changes in land use and climate;
- In forestry nature conservation receives increasing attention, but where timber production is dominant conservation plays a minor role.