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**T-PVS (2002) 2**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

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**Bureau meeting**

The Hague (The Netherlands), 12 April 2002

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

*Secrétariat Memorandum  
Prepared by  
the Directorate of Culture and of Cultural and Natural Heritage*

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## **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The chair Mr Patrick van Klaveren (Monaco) opened the meeting, which was held in The Hague, on 12 April 2002. He welcomed the other two members of the Bureau, Mrs Ilona Jepsen (Latvia, Vice-Chair) and Mrs Ana Isabel Queiroz (Portugal) as well as Mr Eladio Fernández-Galiano from the Secretariat.

The agenda was adopted as it figures in Appendix 1.

## **2. General information**

### **2.1. Biodiversity in Europe Conference (Budapest, 24-28 February 2002)**

The Secretariat presented the results of the Biodiversity in Europe Conference, held in Budapest from 24 to 28 February 2002, in the framework of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy. The Chair conclusions are inserted as Appendix 2 to this report.

Of particular relevance to the work of the Bern Convention was the session (and conclusions) on invasive alien species, in which European states were encouraged to develop a European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species compatible with the Guiding Principles adopted by the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### **2.2.1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Parties of ACCOBAMS (Monaco, 28 February-2 March 2002)**

The Chairman informed that the convention had entered into force in June 2001 and counted already with 11 parties. Among the eighteen themes adopted of particular relevance are the increase in conservation measures, the need to improve knowledge on cetaceans and to form specialists.

Three resolutions were adopted to improve data collection, to establish guidelines for whale-watch tourist operators and on the conservation of the Black Sea bottle-nose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* (in line with Recommendation No. 86 (2001) of the Bern Convention Standing Committee). The Agreement will have a permanent Secretariat in Monaco.

### **2.3. Presentation of the Bern Convention to the Group of rapporteurs of the Committee of Ministers [document GR-C (2002) 1]**

The Secretariat informed that the General Director of the Directorate of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, Mr Bendik Rugaas, had met the “Group of rapporteurs” on Culture (GR-C) to present the work developed by his Directorate in the field of natural heritage and sustainable development. The presentation of such work had been followed with great interest by GR-C, in particular the project to draft a “European Charter of Principles on Environment Protection and Sustainable Development”, a non-legally binding text that may give greater coherence and visibility to the many instruments and programmes undertaken by the Council of Europe in this field, including the Bern Convention. The purpose is to enhance on-going Council of Europe action in environment, to improve integration with other Council of Europe sectors and to launch new initiatives. This is of particular importance for the Bern Convention as the whole environment – sustainable development sector needs to be put into a new, more political, perspective, if it is to become again priority in the Organisation.

## **3. Implementation of the 2002 Programme of activities**

### **a. Report on the implementation of the Convention in the United Kingdom**

A report on the implementation of the Convention in the United Kingdom will be prepared by an expert during 2002. A previous report on Ireland is to be finalised before June 2002.

**b. Emerald Network**

A draft work plan for 2002 is being discussed under the Memorandum of Co-operation of the Council of Europe with the European Environment Agency, which includes the setting and management of a central Emerald database, the update of the Emerald Network Software and the setting-up of a help desk on the Emerald Network at the European Topic Centre for Nature Protection and Biodiversity (ETC-NPB) in Paris.

- *The Group of experts*

The Group of experts for the setting up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest is to hold its annual meeting from 2 to 4 October 2002, either in Strasbourg or in Riga (Latvia), in conjunction with the meeting of the Pan-European Ecological Network and preceded by a one-day Seminar on restoration (or de-fragmentation) of ecological corridors.

A logo is being prepared for the Emerald Network.

- *Pilot projects*

Pilot projects for the setting-up of the Emerald Network at national level have been started in 2002 in Georgia, “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Albania. A consultant has been engaged to further develop the Palearctic Habitats classification.

Contacts have been held with Tunisia and Senegal so as to start also pilot projects in these Contracting Parties.

**c. Invasive Alien Species (IAS)**

A Workshop on Invasive Alien Species on European Islands and evolutionary isolated ecosystems (including a one-day meeting of the Bern Convention Group of experts on IAS) is to be held in Horta (Azores, Portugal) from 10 to 12 October 2002. At the meeting of the Group of Experts, progress will be made in the preparation of a European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS). Two experts are already working on the administrative/legal aspects and on the technical/biological aspects. The Strategy will develop regionally the “Guiding Principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species” adopted by the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

**d. Bird Conservation**

The Group of Experts on Bird Conservation (organised in co-operation with BirdLife International) will meet in Wageningen from 11 to 12 June 2002.

The group will in particular monitor the implementation of Bird Action Plans, specially those covered by recommendations of the Standing Committee. Parties have been asked to submit reports on their implementation, which will be examined by the Group.

The drafting of a new Action plan on the white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) has been financed by the Convention.

A report on the environmental impact of windfarms on birds and guidelines for site selection is being prepared by BirdLife International.

**e. Large Carnivores**

A Workshop on Iberian lynx is to be held in Spain from 29 to 30 October 2002 and is being prepared in co-operation with the Government of Spain, IUCN'SSC (cat Specialist Group), WWF-Spain and the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE).

Reports for the adaptation of Wolf, Bear and Lynx Action plans to the Carpathians and the Dinara-Pindus Range are being prepared by expert. A Group of experts on the Dinaric Pindus Range is meeting in the Risnjak National Park (Croatia) from 12 to 15 May 2002. Other activities connected with the joint work of LCIE-Bern Convention will be the preparation of a meeting of the LCIE core group in Strasbourg and the submission of some LCIE documents (such as the LCIE core group Position Statement on hunting and large carnivores).

**f. Plant Conservation**

After the adoption by the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the CBD of the “Global Plant Conservation Strategy”, the Council of Europe – Planta Europa, European Strategy on Plant Conservation mentioned in Recommendation No. 87 (2001) is being printed and implemented.

**g. Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity**

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SBSTTA-8 of CBD) which will deal on marine biological diversity will be held in Montreal on 9-13 December 2002. Two reports summing up international work and identifying priorities in this field are being prepared, one for the Mediterranean-Black Sea Area and another for the North-East Atlantic and Baltic Areas. The reports will be contribution to SBSTTA-8. Future work on this field will depend of progress on SBSTTA-8.

**h. Sites at risk as a result of an emergency**

No activity has been engaged in this context.

**i. Possible effects on Europe’s biological diversity of climatic change and of remedial measures**

A consultant will be engaged soon.

**j. Awareness and visibility**

The website is being enlarged and updated regularly, although much of the work is focused in integrating the site into the main Council of Europe website.

## **4. Case files**

### **4.1. Specific sites**

**a. Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus) [document T-PVS/Files (2002) 1]**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that an on-the-spot appraisal had been carried out by Mr Anthony Ellul, accompanied by the Secretariat on 24 and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2002. The situation on the ground has not changed substantially since 1997, when Recommendation No. 63 was adopted, although pressure from tourism has increased and it is becoming very threatening to ecologically sensitive areas. A decision on the area is still pending and the conservation of most important areas for species listed in the Convention is far from assured. The expert concluded that it was urgent to take conservation action in the Akamas Peninsula on the basis of the World Bank Report and Recommendation No. 63 which asked for the setting-up of a National Park.

The Cyprus Conservation Foundation sent a short briefing to the Bureau’s meeting informing that a Governemnt position would be finalised in April, possibly permitting 75 hectares (300 donums) of the public forest to be converted into a tourist zone and designating a large part of the peninsula as reserved.

The Bureau took note of the information presented and invited the Government of Cyprus to implement without delay the terms of Recommendation No. 63 (1997), as it has been suggested repeatedly by the Standing Committee.

**b. Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) in Turkey**

The Secretariat informed that, on invitation of the Turkish authorities, an expert, accompanied by the Secretariat, was to carry an on-the-spot appraisal on Kazanlı beach on 13 and 14 May 2002. A meeting with the Vice-Minister of Environment was foreseen for 15<sup>th</sup> May 2002.

The Bureau took note of the information presented.

**4.2. Possible new files**

**a. Illegal capture and offering for sale of protected birds in Cyprus**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that, during its visit to Cyprus, a meeting had been held with the Minister of Interior to discuss the illegal capture and selling of birds. Previous to the Secretariat visit the government had carried out a police campaign against the illegal capture and sale of birds, supported by public education and awareness activities. This campaign is still on-going. Although the authorities are committed to fight these practices, it will take long before they are eradicated.

The Bureau took note of this information, as well as of the update sent by the Ministry of Interior and the comments of the Cyprus Conservation Society. The Bureau decided to examine again the progress in this issue at its September meeting.

**b. Plan to build a motorway in Struma (Bulgaria)**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that an on-the-spot appraisal was to be carried out in May 2002.

The Bureau took note.

**c. Exotic tree plantations in low-altitude areas of biological importance (Iceland)**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that an on-the-spot appraisal was to be carried out at the end of May 2002.

The Bureau took note.

**d. Tourist development in the Souss Massa National Park (Morocco)**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that an on-the-spot appraisal was to be carried out in June 2002.

The Bureau took note.

**4.3. New cases**

**a. Dam in Alqueva (Portugal)**

This case presented by LCIE concerns a dam which has been already built in Alqueva (Eastern Portugal). The informants claim that the dam would increase an existing artificial lake and flood an area important as potential habitat for the Iberian lynx and as a corridor between two existing lynx sub-populations. The number of lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) has drastically declined over the past decades and the distribution is split into nine sub-populations. The Iberian lynx is the most endangered cat species of the world and its survival is more than critical. The Alqueva dam with a total height of 152 meter will create a huge reservoir to irrigate some 1,100 km<sup>2</sup> of agricultural land. The area flooded for the reservoir would be about 250 km<sup>2</sup>. The construction is almost finished and the dam project itself will not be changed. However, matter of debate has recently been the fill height. A reduction by 13 m (from the total fill height of 152 m down to 139 m) would reduce the area flooded by almost 50 % and would allow for the recovery of habitat adjacent to the new artificial lake.

They proposed a 10 year moratoire of the fill height of 139 meters.

The Secretariat wrote on 19 September 2001 to the Portuguese authorities and the European Commission (as the dam is to be financed with European funds).

The European Commission replied by a letter of Mr Hanley of 25 October 2001 assuring that there is no presence of lynx in the area (information that agrees with the conclusions of the LIFE project carried out for lynx in Portugal, which did not include this area in those with “regular presence” or “irregular presence”). The Commission had conditioned its funding to the development of an Environmental Management Plan. The Commission assured the Secretariat that the Commission was following closely the implementation of the conditions on which the funding had been agreed.

The Bureau briefly discussed this case. Mrs Queiroz confirmed that such area had not had a lynx population in the last 10-20 years. The Secretariat had the same information from reliable scientific sources.

The Bureau did not see substance to propose the case as a “possible case file”.

**b. Dam in Odeluca (Portugal)**

By letter of 4 February 2002 the Secretariat received a complaint from Prof. Jorge Palmeirim (for the Ligue for Nature Protection, LPN), claiming that a dam to be built in the Serra de Monchique (South Portugal) could endanger the largest population of lynx in Portugal, as it would negatively affect important lynx habitat. Although the complaint submitted by LPN in 1998 to the European Commission had had for effect the opening of inquisition procedures, this did not seem enough to spot the development, which is to affect a Natura 2000 area.

The Secretariat contacted scientific experts, who informed the Secretariat that the Iberian lynx populations had suffered a collapse since 1999 due to a drastic rarefaction of its main prey, the rabbit (caused by a virus epidemic). The Secretariat wrote on 25 March to Mr Palmeirim stating that the presence of Iberian lynx in Portugal was at present dubious. As Mr Palmeirim produced much technical information confirming such presence (but all dated before 2001), the Secretariat decided to bring the matter to the Bureau.

The Bureau discussed the issue and concluded that, irrespectively of the presence of lynx in Monchique at present, it was important to be able to keep its habitat in good condition in prevision of a recovery of the species. It was not excluded either that the Iberian lynx was present in the area, even at undetectable levels. As the dam was being planned in a Natura 2000 area and the Iberian lynx is one of the most endangered species in Appendix II, the government of Portugal should be particularly attentive to the species.

The Bureau decided to present this case as a “possible file” for the next meeting of the Convention and instructed the Secretariat to write to the government of Portugal and the European Commission.

**c. Wolf control (Switzerland)**

On 10 December 2001, the Secretariat received a complaint from the organisation “Legaambiente” informing the Secretariat of the killing of a wolf in Switzerland. The wolf had been killed following the delivery of an authorisation by the Federal Office for Environment, Forests and Landscape (OFEFP) and the authorities of the Canton of Grisons.

The Secretariat was also informed that the Federal Chamber of the Swiss Parliament (*Conseil d'Etat*) had presented a proposal to delete wolf from the list of protected species in Switzerland.

Such decision would be contrary to the provisions of Article 6 of the Convention, specially as Switzerland made no reservation concerning this species.

The Secretariat wrote on 23 January 2002 to the Swiss authorities to request additional information.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, the Director of OFEFP replied informing the Secretariat that OFEFP had prepared a management plan for wolf in which conditions were set for the control of wolves causing unsupportable damage to sheep flocks. In the context of that management plan an authorisation for killing had been issued for a young wolf that had killed over 50 sheep in the Canton of Grisons.

The Bureau briefly debated this case and wished to examine the wolf management plan so as to be able to form its opinion on this case.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to request a copy of such wolf management Plan from the Swiss authorities and it decided to re-examine the matter at its next meeting.

## **5. Proposals for the programme of activities for 2003**

The Bureau and Secretariat proposed some issues for activities in 2003:

- Conclusions of European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species;
- Conference on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (in co-ordination with results from SBSTTA-8);
- Group of Experts on conservation of invertebrates;
- Study on conservation and management of some habitats of special relevance for the Convention (i.e. dunes, grasslands);
- Action plans for some species that are not receiving much attention (i.e. sturgeon);
- Promotion of the Emerald Network.

## **6. Other business**

No other business was raised.



## APPENDIX 1

### CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS

Strasbourg, 14 March 2002

### Standing Committee Bureau meeting

The Hague (Netherlands), 13 April 2002  
(opening: 9.30)

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#### AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. General information**
  - 2.1. Results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intergovernmental Conference on Biological Diversity in Europe (Budapest, 24-28 February 2002)
  - 2.2. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Parties of ACCOBAMS (Monaco, 28 February-2 March)
  - 2.3. Presentation of the Bern Convention to Group of rapporteurs of the Committee of Ministers
- 3. Implementation of the 2002 Programme of activities**
- 4. Implementation of the Convention : Files**
  - 4.1. Files open**
    - Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus)
    - *Chelonia mydas* (Turkey)
  - 4.2. Possible new files**
    - Cyprus : illegal capture and offering for sale of protected birds
    - Bulgaria : construction of motorway in Struma
    - Iceland : exotic forest plantation in areas of biological importance
    - Morocco : tourist development in the Souss Massa National Park
  - 4.3. New cases**
    - Portugal : dam in Alqueva
    - Portugal : dam in Odeluca
    - Switzerland : wolf control
- 5. – Proposals for programme of activities in 2003**
- 6. Other business**



## APPENDIX 2

# CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUSIONS OF THE SECOND INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE "BIODIVERSITY IN EUROPE"

*24-28 February 2001, Budapest, Hungary*

### INTRODUCTION

1. In 1999, a group of European Governments took the initiative of organising a Pan-European regional preparatory meeting for the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP-5). The resulting Intergovernmental Conference "Biodiversity in Europe", held from 20 to 23 March 2000 in Riga, became the first forum at the Pan-European level, where global and regional biodiversity policies were discussed by Governments, international and non-governmental organisations.
2. Building on the success of the Riga Conference, the Government of Hungary offered to host the Second Intergovernmental Conference "Biodiversity in Europe" from 24 to 28 February 2002 in Budapest. This Conference was held under the overall umbrella of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), thus providing an interface between the CBD, as the global instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and "Environment for Europe", as the Ministerial process addressing biodiversity related developments in the Pan-European region.
3. The Conference benefited from advice and experience of several Ministers and other high-level officials and attracted a broad participation of European Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.
4. The Conference had two main objectives:
  - to facilitate the preparations for the CBD/COP-6 in the region, and
  - to strengthen the cooperation on biodiversity in Europe.
5. The Conference resulted in a clearer vision of how to advance the European biodiversity agenda. It reviewed relevant ongoing Pan-European processes, identified priorities and made a number of recommendations for action at the regional level. It also took decisions regarding the implementation of the PEBLDS.
6. The Conference thoroughly discussed most of the main items of the CBD/COP-6 agenda, which were of special European concern, with a view to developing a regional input in the forthcoming negotiations at The Hague.
7. The main message from Budapest to the global biodiversity community is that European countries are committed to work jointly for attaining common goals of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Europe is keen to learn from a wide range of experiences of other regions with a view to enriching the Pan-European biodiversity processes, and ready to share its achievements and innovations with other regions of the world.
8. Europe is convinced of the importance of integrating biodiversity issues into sustainable development and, to that end, encourages the promotion of cooperation between the CBD and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and relevant agencies and organisations within and outside the United Nations system.

## THE MESSAGE FROM EUROPE TO THE CBD/COP-6

9. The CBD should, at its highest level, deliver a strong message for transmission to the World Summit on Sustainable Development emphasizing the fundamental role of biodiversity as a cornerstone for sustainable development and the importance of the full implementation of the CBD and its provisions.

10. This message should be introduced as soon as possible in the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and translated in Johannesburg into concrete activities reflecting renewed political commitment to the CBD as main instrument to protect biodiversity.

11. As regards the main topics of the CBD/COP-6, the Conference made the following recommendations:

### *Forest biological diversity*

12. Given the crucial role of all types of forests, *inter alia* primary forests, the Convention on Biological Diversity should assume a leading role on issues related to forest biodiversity. In this regard the following requires attention:

- Mutual supportiveness and increased synergy between the CBD and international instruments related to forests, in particular the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), should be ensured.
- The Accra-workshop, which has identified important areas for collaboration between UNFF and CBD. In this respect the links between the CBD work programme on forest biological diversity and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) proposals for action, the UNFF's Multi Year Programme of Work and the Plan of Action, should be enhanced.
- Climate change as well as measures under the Kyoto Protocol might have serious impact on biodiversity. Focused work by the CBD and closer co-operation between the UNFCCC and the CBD, e.g. by joint activities, organising joint workshops and integrating biodiversity concerns into the work under the UNFCCC, should be developed.
- The role of the Secretariat of the CBD as lead agency on forest biological diversity within the CPF should be enhanced.
- The cooperation between the Environment for Europe /Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) at the regional level should be highlighted with a view to developing models for the co-operation between forest and biodiversity related processes worldwide.

13. While considering an expanded work programme on forest biological diversity, the CBD/COP-6 should address the following issues:

- An action oriented work programme should be adopted identifying priorities, respective actors, targets and timeframes, indicators of progress, and possible ways and means for the implementation of the activities. Among the respective actors, a main actor for each activity should be clearly defined. Taking into account needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition (capacity building, financing, technology transfer), the priorities should emphasise the most urgent activities to be carried out as the first step in a phased approach to implement all elements of the expanded work programme.
- Priority in the efforts to conserve biodiversity should be given to the most endangered and environmentally significant forest ecosystems and species, in particular primary forests.
- The following criteria could guide the selection of issues in the expanded work programme for the first phase:

- Having a clear and immediate potential for reducing the loss of forest biological diversity
  - Covered both in the draft work programme of the CBD and in the plan of action of the UNFF
  - Not covered by other workplans and programmes of the CBD.
- Based on the criteria listed above, the following issues (indicated with a key term) of the expanded work programme as proposed by the Seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-7) could be prioritised for the first phase of the work programme:

PROGRAMME ELEMENT 1:

- ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management (Goal 1, Objective 1)
- threatening processes to forest biological diversity (Goal 2)
- conversion and fragmentation (Goal 2, Objective 6)
- restoration of forest ecosystem (Goal 3, Objective 1)
- protected forest areas (Goal 3, Objective 3)
- sustainable use enhancing the conservation of forest biodiversity (Goal 4, Objective 1)
- voluntary third party credible forest certification schemes (Goal 4, Objective 1)

PROGRAMME ELEMENT 2:

- integration of forest biological diversity into forest and other sectors and programmes (Goal 1, Objective 2)
- good governance (Goal 1, Objective 3)
- combating illegal logging and related trade (Goal 1, Objective 4)
- economic distortions and failures (Goal 2, Objective 1)
- increase of public awareness (Goal 3)
- valuation of forest biodiversity and its goods and services (Goal 3, Objective 1)

PROGRAMME ELEMENT 3:

- forest classification systems (Goal 1, Objective 1)
  - criteria and indicators within the framework of sustainable forest management (Goal 2, Objective 1)
- Implementation of the work programme on the ground should be ensured by, *inter alia*, capacity building, awareness raising, stakeholder involvement and communication activities, taking also into account indigenous and local communities rights and interests. National and international forest industries should be encouraged to support the implementation of the work programme through adopting and implementing adequate ecological policies.
- A mechanism for reviewing and monitoring the implementation should be included into the work programme.
- The Parties and other actors addressed in the work programme should be invited to report at the CBD/COP-7 on respective measures they have taken and progress achieved in the implementation of the work programme.
- The work programme should make use of the work and experiences of regional level processes, such as the MCPFE and Environment for Europe/PEBLDS. In this regard, the Pan-

European work on national forest programmes, criteria and indicators and protected forest areas should be taken into account .

14. Adequate consideration of the elements and provisions of the expanded work programme on forest biological diversity, in relevant regional instruments and processes as well as in national biodiversity strategies, plans or programmes, national forest programmes and national sustainable development strategies in a coherent and synergistic manner, will be of vital importance for its implementation.

### ***Invasive alien species***

15. Clear definitions and terminology with regard to “invasive alien species” should be agreed upon.

16. SBSTTA guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of invasive alien species (IAS) should be adopted, focusing, *inter alia*, on the need:

- for adequate assessment of the real and potential threats to biodiversity and for the application of the Precautionary Principle set forth in Principle 15 of the 92 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, further elaborated in, *inter alia*, the Preamble of the CBD and Article 10 of the Cartagena Protocol, including within a risk analysis framework.
- to take into account that, in cases of intentional introductions of invasive alien species, the burden of proof that a proposed introduction is unlikely to cause harm to ecosystems, habitats or species, should be with the proposer of the introduction.
- for States to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. In the context of invasive alien species, activities that could be a risk for another State include:
  - (a) the intentional or unintentional transfer of an invasive alien species to another State (even if it is harmless in the State of origin); and
  - (b) the intentional or unintentional introduction of an alien species into their own State if there is a risk of that species subsequently spreading (with or without a human vector) into another State and becoming invasive.

17. Practical application of these guiding principles should , *inter alia*, be promoted through existing instruments, mechanisms and programmes, and, on the basis of the outcomes of the SBSTTA analysis of options, new arrangements should be developed, if appropriate. International cooperation should be reinforced *inter alia* by means of collaborative arrangements with relevant instruments and organisations.

18. The effectiveness of a regional approach to the issue of invasive alien species should be acknowledged.

19. All Parties to the CBD should be encouraged to ratify and implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

20. Support should be given to research and development of methods to predict and prevent invasive behaviour of alien species and genetically modified organisms (GMOs), before they are released into the environment.

21. Adequate global communication structures should be elaborated, such as the tailoring of the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) for IAS purpose and the establishment and maintenance of an “Early Warning System”.

22. Experiences of prevention, control and eradication of IAS should be collated and supplemented by new pilot projects to improve the scientific, technical and technological basis, as well as to further capacity building with regard to prediction, prevention, control, eradication, restoration, and mitigation. Results should be communicated e.g. through the CHM.

23. Awareness raising initiatives should be launched and supported to address widespread lack of understanding of IAS and the need for strengthening preventative measures.

***Financial resources and mechanisms for biodiversity***

24. While discussing the item “Financial instruments and mechanism”, the CBD/COP-6 may address the following points, and entrust their further consideration to its subsidiary bodies as appropriate:

- Partnerships between financial institutions and the biodiversity community, which will support the mainstreaming of biodiversity into banking policy and operations, should be promoted. The European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative (EBRI) should be highlighted as a positive innovative example of regional cooperation for the global community.
- A global biodiversity private venture capital or private investment funds for bankable biodiversity related programmes and projects should be established, to act as a catalyst along with the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- Awareness of governmental and non-governmental biodiversity stakeholders regarding investment opportunities should be enhanced. Integration of biodiversity concerns in rural and urban development projects should be promoted.
- The importance of economic valuation for biodiversity related decision making should be acknowledged.
- Tax and other financial incentives should be introduced at the appropriate governmental levels to facilitate investments in biodiversity and allow for a normal financial return from investment.
- Activities aiming at full assessment of both market and non-market values of ecological services provided by biodiversity and the conservation of biodiversity, for inclusion into economic and financial relations and policies should be promoted.
- Perverse financial incentives should be identified, such as environmentally damaging subsidies, tax breaks, export credits, and financial investment, and should be reformed to support financial incentives contributing to the prevention of biodiversity loss.
- Options for better coordination between existing financial institutions, mechanisms and financiers should be explored. The issue of forest biological diversity could be an important test case.
- The sharing of knowledge and experience should be promoted. The Clearing House Mechanism of the CBD could include a thematic Banking/ Business and Biodiversity focus, containing information of interest and relevance to financial institutions and the private sector, including a banking/biodiversity portfolio for financiers and recipients, and examples of good “business and biodiversity” practice, thereby building on the existing CBD “Database on biodiversity related funding information”.
- Ways and means, including alternative predictions of the future of biodiversity, to stimulate the banking/business sector to support the development and implementation of bankable projects with a substantial biodiversity component, should be explored.
- GEF funding and implementation procedures must be made more effective and efficient.

***Indicators, monitoring and the clearing house mechanism***

25. In response to Decision V/7 of the Conference of the Parties and SBSTTA Recommendation VII/11, regional cooperation and synergy between national, regional and global indicator developments should be promoted, with a view to enhancing comparability and efficiency of biodiversity monitoring programmes. In this respect the European Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicator Framework (EBMI-F) can serve as an example of a regional coordination effort.

26. Support for increased scientific and technical cooperation through CHM worldwide should be ensured. The Pan-European workshop on “Building the CHM partnership: facilitating scientific and technical cooperation” is a good step in this direction.

27. The use of CHMs for exchanging indicator-based monitoring information and on-line reporting should be stimulated at the national, regional and international levels.

28. In line with Recommendation VII/11 of SBSTTA, the CBD/COP-6 should invite the Parties and relevant organisations and processes to report to the CBD/COP-7 on the development of national-level monitoring systems and sets of indicators for biodiversity; and in line with Recommendation VII/2 of SBSTTA, the Parties should welcome the development of improved biodiversity assessment methods and processes.

### ***Strategic Plan for the CBD and the implementation of the Convention***

29. The decline in global biodiversity is continuing at an alarming rate. A renewed and increased political commitment is highly needed to change this situation. The CBD must be implemented much more efficiently and a Strategic Plan to this end is needed. It should:

- focus on priorities for the coming years;
- provide guidance to the Parties and assist them in implementing the obligations of the CBD and decisions adopted by the Conference of Parties;
- support the ecosystem approach in biodiversity conservation and management and sustainable use of its components;
- promote synergies between various biodiversity-related multilateral treaties;
- guide the Multi-year Programme of Work for the period 2002-2010 as an essential part of the Strategic Plan, and facilitate a critical review of the existing programmes and decisions and the way they were made.

30. From a European perspective, the integration of biodiversity considerations into the relevant sectors at various levels and the development of interconnected ecological networks of areas important for biodiversity, should form essential elements of the Strategic Plan.

31. The importance of regional collaboration and region-to-region cooperation should be emphasised.

32. With regard to synergies between the CBD and other biodiversity related treaties and programmes, practical collaboration should be pursued, for example through adoption and implementation of the third joint work plan of the CBD and the Ramsar Convention as well as the new joint work programme of the CBD and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

33. Given the vital importance of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) for the implementation of the Convention, effective means and mechanisms to support priority actions in NBSAPs should be explored. In this respect, appropriate capacity building is needed.

34. The Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness developed by a CBD, UNESCO, IUCN, UNEP expert group to the CBD/COP-6 should be actively used as a tool by the Parties to reach the objectives of the Convention and the COP decisions.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUROPE**

35. Acknowledging the effectiveness of the regional approach to addressing various aspects of biodiversity conservation, the Conference reviewed relevant ongoing Pan-European processes, identified priorities for action and made the following recommendations:

#### ***Forest biological diversity***

36. The MCPFE and Environment for Europe/PEBLDS should continue working towards the development of a framework for cooperation on forest biological diversity between the two processes with a view to its endorsement by the Vienna Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Kyiv Ministerial "Environment for Europe" Conference, both in 2003.

37. This framework should be built on recent work and strongly connected to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity of the CBD, to be adopted at the CBD/COP-6 taking into

account the relevant work of UNFF. In addition, the relevant work of other initiatives (eg. of NGOs) should be recognised.

***Invasive alien species***

38. A European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species, fully compatible with the CBD guiding principles and based on the work being undertaken in the framework of the Bern Convention and other existing instruments, should be developed and agreed upon.

39. Trade, transport, travel and tourism regulations and instruments should be used to the extent possible to contribute to preventing unwanted introductions. This should include increased co-operation between the various authorities controlling borders, such as veterinary, phytosanitary, the International Plant Protection Convention (Rome 1951) and CITES authorities.

40. Other elements to be considered for the development of the European strategy on IAS may include:

- voluntary codes of conduct for important sectors e.g. trade, transport, travel and tourism, as well as for the use of alien species in urban environment management;
- a regional list of IAS based on a biogeographical approach;
- Harmonisation of national policies and structures;
- a regional system for monitoring and communication;
- wide stakeholder participation;
- education, training and awareness raising of IAS issues;
- scientific and research programmes on various aspects of IAS, including e.g. genetic introgression;
- consolidation and coordination at the national level involving authorities responsible for environment, agriculture, trade, health etc.

41. Sensibilization and capacity of border control authorities should be enhanced in order to improve the present situation of impact of decreased border controls, *inter alia*, on the introduction and spread of invasive alien species

***Financial resources and mechanisms for biodiversity in Europe***

42. The further development and implementation of the European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative, should be encouraged and supported by involving existing financial mechanisms like the Project Preparation Committee (PPC). The results should be reported and discussed at the Fifth "Environment for Europe" Conference (Kyiv, 2003).

43. The special needs of the Newly Independent States (NIS) and non-EU candidates should be recognized as they face challenges such as:

- the need to balance conservation priorities with declining public funding for protected areas management;
- restitution/privatization of land, in particular forest land;
- the move from a "strict reserve" system to a participatory approach.

44. To this aim, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies and international financial institutions (IFIs) should be encouraged to strengthen their analytical work on how biodiversity conservation fits into their corporate agenda of poverty reduction and economic growth as well as in sustainable management of global public goods. Further, bilateral aid agencies should be encouraged to co-finance preparation and implementation of investment projects, which address the above mentioned linkages.

45. Financial sectors and other relevant stakeholders, including governments, should establish operational partnerships on banking, business and biodiversity, including an Ad Hoc European Task Force on Banking/Business and Biodiversity.

46. Priorities for action should include:

- the provision of adequate and realistic resources to implement the PEBLDS, the EU Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plans;
- exploration of public-private partnerships for increasing investments in biodiversity relevant projects and programmes;
- mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into financial policies and investment programmes of financial institutions, in particular the European banks, while using instruments such as Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) biodiversity guidelines, the biodiversity assessment toolkit, focused training and workshops, and biodiversity and banking handbooks, and pooling expertise on banking and biodiversity;
- integration of biodiversity concerns in public procurement policies;
- the mobilisation of resources or the development of new funds for biodiversity investments, leading to increased opportunities for biodiversity investment;
- an increased and targeted information flow between the biodiversity sector and financial institutions, *inter alia*, via the establishment of a European “Banking/Business and Biodiversity” information network integrated into existing CHMs, including the CBD Clearing House Mechanism;
- the need for the integration of biodiversity in the NIS resourcing under OECD Environmental Action Plan (EAP) Task Force and also EU TACIS Programme;
- the development of project portfolios to be prepared jointly by financiers and recipients. Financers should consider transparent working mechanisms to allow and support the engagement of all stakeholders, and help build capacity as appropriate.
- identification and elimination of perverse incentives, such as subsidies, tax breaks and export credits with a negative environmental impact, and channelling of the resources to promote positive incentives.

47. The development of bankable biodiversity programmes and projects, for specific banks or for inclusion into European lists and portfolios of bankable biodiversity projects, should be promoted. The introduction of appropriate financial incentives, including fiscal measures such as tax deduction, should be encouraged.

48. Examples of good “business and biodiversity” practice should be more widely disseminated across Europe. Consideration should be given to the possibility of scenario modelling as a useful means of communicating biodiversity concerns to the business community.

#### ***Indicators, monitoring and the Clearing House Mechanism***

49. European countries should make a collective effort to include biodiversity indicators in international, European and national monitoring systems involving all stakeholder groups and to harmonise approaches on indicators and monitoring programmes. Tools to achieve this include capacity building, information exchange, test cases, and best practices. The European Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicator Framework and CHMs are helpful platforms for this purpose.

50. Indicators should be credible, scientifically sound, reflect local and biogeographical characteristics and be understandable to stakeholders and the general public. A gradual simple approach for developing indicators is recommended to national and European organisations and authorities: 1) begin by implementing indicators that are ready for use and are relevant for the CBD ; 2) continue concept development, and improve indicators for sectorial integration; and 3) challenge policymakers to identify for which measurable objectives they want indicators to be developed and monitored.

51. A report with European experience and recommendations with regard to indicators should be produced to feed into the CBD/COP-7.



52. The CHM is a key tool in the implementation of the CBD and a mechanism to enhance communication among stakeholders within and between countries. The CHM should therefore be used to make available information regarding indicators, monitoring and reporting. To this end, the further development and maintenance, with adequate funding, of national CHMs throughout Europe should be strongly encouraged. Adequate support should be provided to European CHMs and to those countries that are yet to start the CHM development, including, *inter alia*, through enhanced Pan-European CHM cooperation .

53. A common set of Europe-wide indicators should be agreed upon before the CBD/COP-7 building on the CBD work in this field. Such a set should also build on results of the work carried out by the European Environment Agency (EEA) as well as on existing sets of indicators at national, regional and international level, e.g. work on criteria and indicators on sustainable forest management under the MCPFE, and agrobiodiversity indicators work of OECD. The identified sets of indicators should also serve to streamline the dataflow from monitoring to reporting.

#### ***Strategic Plan for the CBD and the implementation of the Convention***

54. All European Parties to the CBD should actively use the Strategic Plan, once adopted, to improve the implementation of the CBD through national actions as well as existing mechanisms for regional and sub-regional cooperation such as the PEBLDS and the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

55. The effectiveness of CBD provisions will be considerably enhanced through regional and sub-regional implementation. The PEBLDS as a Pan-European regional instrument to support the CBD implementation as well as other relevant European instruments and tools should be further strengthened. The Work Programme of the PEBLDS should be harmonised with the CBD and its programme of work, as to its goals, priorities for action, and expected outcomes. The Strategic Plan will be a guiding instrument here.

56. Referring to the International Environment Governance (IEG) process and the need for increased synergies between biodiversity and related instruments, the PEBLDS could be developed into a main strategy and forum for promoting collaboration and coherence of activities under these instruments.

57. Support for the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States should be increased, in particular through bilateral cooperation and the Biodiversity Service operated by UNEP, IUCN – the World Conservation Union, the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).

58. The European Plant Conservation Strategy, prepared by the Council of Europe and Planta Europa, is a good example of the implementation of the CBD activities, namely of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, at the regional level.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

59. In order to keep the momentum of the Budapest Conference and its excellent spirit, and to build upon its results, the participating Governments, supported by other stakeholders, have agreed:

- To present the message from the Budapest Conference to the CBD/COP-6 for consideration under relevant agenda items;
- To incorporate the recommendations made in their plans and programmes and the Pan-European biodiversity process as appropriate;
- To use and integrate the outcomes and experience of the Budapest Conference in the preparation of biodiversity related agenda items of the Fifth “Environment for Europe” Conference (Kyiv, 2003);
- To mobilise the Pan-European Biodiversity CHM partnership to support the implementation of the recommendations, and widely disseminate the results of the Budapest Conference.