



Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 195 (2017) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 8 December 2017, on the control and eradication of invasive alien species in islands

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aim of the Convention which is notably to ensure the conservation of wild flora and fauna, by giving particular attention to species, including migratory species, which are threatened with extinction and vulnerable;

Recalling that under Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 91 (2002) on invasive alien species that threaten biological diversity in islands and geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 99 (2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 178 (2015) on the control of feral ungulates in island of the Mediterranean and Macaronasian Regions;

Recalling Decision VI/23 of the 6th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, and the definitions used in that text;

Recalling that the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 headline Aichi targets for 2020, in particular Target 9 devoted to invasive alien species (IAS): “By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment”;

Welcoming the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, endorsed by the Council of the European Union in June 2011, and in particular its Target 5, calling on Member States to combat IAS so that by 2020 IAS and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new IAS;

Welcoming the EU Regulation No. 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species;

Conscious of the high threat that invasive alien species cause to ecosystems, endemic species, vulnerable species in islands;

Aware that invasive alien species is the first cause of extinction of species in islands;

Conscious that the value of islands – particularly small islands – for the nesting of marine birds is significantly reduced by the presence of some non-native mammals,

Recommends that concerned Contracting Parties:

1. Monitor invasive alien species on islands and record success (and also eventual failure) of pest control and eradication programmes so that solid scientific information is at the base of new conservation efforts,
2. Consider launching ambitious multi-year programmes to strictly control or, where feasible, eradicate invasive alien species on islands; in this context prioritise action taking into account the number of endemic species threatened by invasive alien species, the feasibility of the eradication and the potential gains from eradication or control for native biodiversity,
3. Where appropriate, consider carrying out simultaneously multi-species eradication,
4. Examine and, where appropriate, remove legal barriers that may hinder control of invasive alien animals from islands,
5. Identify appropriate stakeholders in scientific and research institutes, in other levels of government and in NGOs, that may support control and eradication programmes in islands and involve them as appropriate in the planning and implementation of control and eradication efforts,
6. For each control/eradication programme create a specific dedicated team for the programme as the existence of such highly-motivated teams have proved key to achieve positive results,
7. Co-operate with other States, as appropriate, including transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms or expertise, financially or otherwise in control and eradication programmes in islands,
8. Keep the Standing Committee informed on the measures taken to implement this recommendation;

Invites Observer States to take note of this recommendation and implement as appropriate.