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T-PVS (2017) 12

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

37th meeting
Strasbourg, 5-8 December 2017

**12TH MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES
AND
WORKSHOP ON EXPERIENCES ON CONTROL AND
ERADICATION OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES ON ISLANDS**

1-3 June 2017
University of Madeira, Funchal, Madeira (Portugal)

- MEETING REPORT -

*Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

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The Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species held their 12th meeting in Funchal (Madeira) hosted by the University of Madeira and in co-operation with the Regional Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Madeira and support from the Portugal Government.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the meeting and, in particular of the reports presented by State Parties, the European Commission and other international organisations on the progress in the implementation of the Convention's European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species;
- Thank the Portuguese authorities, the Region of Madeira and the University of Madeira for the great hospitality and excellent preparation of the meeting;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the draft Recommendation on the European Code of Conduct on Invasive Alien Trees (appendix 3 to this document);
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the draft Recommendation on the European Code of Conduct on International Travel and Invasive Alien Species (appendix 4 to this document);
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the draft Recommendation on the control and eradication of invasive alien species on islands (appendix 5 to this document);
- Take note of proposal of the Group of Experts on the future work of the Convention in the field of invasive alien species.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIR AND WELCOME BY MADEIRAN AUTHORITIES

Mr Manuel Filipe, President of the Madeira Institute of Forest and Nature Conservation, Ms Elsa Maria dos Santos Fernandez, rector of the University of Madeira and Mr Paulo Carmo, Portuguese delegate to the Standing Committee to the Convention welcomed the participants and noted both their satisfaction for hosting the meeting and the importance of dealing appropriately with invasive alien species in oceanic islands due to the extraordinary richness of their biodiversity and the high number of endemism present in islands.

The Chair, Mr Wojciech Solarz, welcomed participants and noted that the Group had been meeting for 23 years, mainly on islands, as those territories deserve special conservation attention for their fragility and important biodiversity.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

T-PVS (2015)10 – Report of the 11th meeting of the Group of Experts
T-PVS (2016) 12 Report of the meeting of the Select Group of Experts

The agenda was adopted as it figures in appendix 1 to this report.

3. INTRODUCTION BY THE SECRETARIAT: PROGRESS ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES UNDER THE CONVENTION WITH OTHER BERN CONVENTION INITIATIVES.

Relevant Recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee since June 2015

T-PVS/Inf (2016) 13 – Code of Conduct on Recreational Boating and IAS
T-PVS/Inf (2017) 3 – Report of the expert group on eradication of ruddy duck
T-PVS/Inf (2016) 10 – Guidance for governments concerning IAS Pathways Action plans

- Recommendation No. 178 (2015) on the control of feral ungulates in islands of the Mediterranean and Macaronesian Regions
- Recommendation No. 179 (2015) on action to promote and complement the implementation of EU Regulation 1143/2014 on invasive alien species
- Recommendation No. 185 (2016) on the eradication of the ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palaearctic by 2020
- Recommendation No. 188 (2016) on the European Code of Conduct on Recreational Boating and Invasive Alien Species
- Recommendation No. 189 (2016) on the control of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in Europe.

The Secretariat informed the Group that, since its last meeting, the Standing Committee had adopted five recommendations on Invasive Alien Species (listed above). Guidance for governments concerning Invasive Alien Species Pathways Action Plans have also been produced and distributed to governments.

In addition to that work the Convention had commissioned a “Report on the methods to carry out risk assessment for mammals (an application with *Calloscinrus finlaysonii* and *Sylvilagus floridanus* [document T-PVS/Inf (2015) 27] drafted by Mr Sandro Bertolino. The purpose of the work on pathways and risk analysis was to facilitate the implementation of the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation.

Mr Carlos Expósito presented the results of the meeting of the Group of Experts on the eradication of ruddy duck. There was considerable progress in the eradication of the species, even if there are still administrative and practical difficulties to implement more efficient culling in Belgium, France and the Netherlands. The Group had recommended to improve the implementation of the Invasive Alien Species EU Regulation, to focus on 4 key countries (those mentioned above and the United Kingdom) and prioritise the removal of female ruddy ducks. Mr Expósito thought this could be achieved in a few years, especially if France gets necessary resources (through a LIFE Project or otherwise).

4. IMPLEMENTATION BY STATES OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON IAS - National Reports

T-PVS/Inf (2017) 9 – National Reports

Seven States presented oral reports: Iceland, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

A general finding from the reports presented, and the remaining reports that had been sent by the States before the meeting, shows the issue of Invasive Alien Species is broadly high in the biodiversity agenda. Many States are passing new, restrictive laws, mechanism for import are being strengthened and usually requires complex risks assessments, matched with liability. Many EU States are working much with the mechanism to implement the EU Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species. They are producing risk analysis for some species and identifying pathways of introduction so as to be able to take precautionary measures.

Awareness campaigns are increasing (such as the invasive species week in the United Kingdom, with 350 NGOs involved). Much of the scientific work is still focused in identifying species likely to cause very negative effects on native biodiversity and prioritisation of species for eradication (according to effects and feasibility).

Many States are drafting and/or implementing national strategies for invasive alien species. Much of the efforts are guided to prevention. Monitoring of invasive alien species is now improving in most States reporting.

Some invasive alien species are causing special concern because of their negative effect on biodiversity and agriculture (such as the Asian hornet, which is mentioned in many reports). Control of invasive alien species is now more regularly included in management plans for protected areas, in particular those included in the Natura 2000 and Emerald Network.

5. REPORTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER

5.1 Status of global work on IAS by the Chair of ISSG (IUCN) .Classifying IAS by their environmental impact. IUCN policy on biodiversity conservation and synthetic biology

Mr Piero Genovesi, Chair of ISSG, explained the latest concerns of IUCN concerning invasive alien species, particularly the pattern of growth in e-commerce, tourism and shipping container trade, all important sources of introductions of alien species. Many governments have limited capacities to respond to emerging invasive alien species, so the problem may increase. It was also worrying to see a tendency to disregard or downplay scientific evidence of the impacts of invasive alien species on native biodiversity. The Convention's of Biological Diversity Aichi targets for invasive alien species will probably not be met by 2020 as nearly half the States are doing insufficient progress.

IUCN keeps working hard on the Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) and has recently launched a Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS). IUCN is also developing a tool to measure the impact of invasive alien species, called "Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (EICAT) and also a database on Island Biodiversity and Invasive Species (IBIS).

IUCN continues to work on pathways of arrival of invasive alien species, developing a standard categorisation of pathway with the help of other partners. All this work is aimed to support the implementation of State commitments with the CBD, the Bern Convention and the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation. The work on pathways, combined with the Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa, will permit States to prioritise action, with a focus on prevention.

IUCN is also following up the developments of synthetic biology and gene drive techniques, that could offer new tools to combat invasive species, but also pose risks of undesired effects, requiring a cautioned approach.

5.2 European Commission work on Invasive Alien Species: progress in the implementation of the EU Regulation 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species

Mr Spyridon Flevaris, representing the European Commission, informed the Group that the implementation of the EU Regulation 1143/2014 is progressing. The initial list of “Invasive Alien Species of Union concern” entered into force in August 2016 and an update (adding species) is planned for summer 2017. The first list has 37 invasive alien species, 14 plants and 23 animals. The second update of the list is foreseen for 2018.

The EU Regulation 1143/2014 is also helping much new work in Member States, particularly in pathway management to deal with unintentional introduction and more surveillance activities matched with early detection, notification and rapid eradication where feasible. Special tools being developed are EASIN (Information Support System), NOTSYS (Notification System) and a smartphone application. There is substantial financial support by the European Commission using a variety of funding resources (LIFE projects, rural development, regional development and research funding). The Commission supports also communication and the use of codes of conduct.

5.3 Progress on the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO)

Mr Rob Tanner, representing EPPO, informed the Group that information on invasive alien species was continuing through the EPPO Reporting Service and the EPPO Global Database. EPPO was leading a LIFE project on “Mitigating the threats of alien plants to the European Union through pest risk analysis” intended to support the EU Regulation. The project (February 2016-June 2018) aims to prioritise plant species from EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants (and other sources) for Risk Assessment and to carry pest risk analysis for 16 plant species (37 species are identified as potential candidates). The project will also assess the impact of selected species on ecosystem services.

EPPO continues to provide pest risk analysis and they work on a scheme for an express pest risk analysis. Also work is developed on climate change, making prediction on the future invasiveness and distribution in different climate scenarios.

5.4 Progress on NOBANIS portal

Mr Pawel Wasowicz (Iceland) informed the Group that the NOBANIS portal, after experiencing some financial difficulties in 2015 and 2016 was now hosted and supported by the Icelandic Institute of Natural History. The portal is focused on providing information in invasive alien species in the NOBANIS region (mainly Baltic and Nordic Council countries but also Austria, Belgium, Greenland, Ireland, the Netherlands and Slovak Republic, 28 national focal points in 20 countries). The portal works on pathway analysis and horizon scanning for countries in Northern Europe. The database is updated and it keeps providing technical assistance to its member states.

5.5 Convention on Biological Diversity - The Honolulu Challenge

Mr Piero Genovesi, Chair of IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group, brought news from the last IUCN Congress in Hawaii, where invasive alien species had received much attention because they are a major cause of extinctions (primary cause of extinctions for islands), cause great economic loss and is an increasing threat (rise of 76 % of invasive alien species from 1970-2009). Thus IUCN was promoting the implementation of more effective biosecurity policies, addressing in particular precautionary measures aimed to address priority pathways of invasion. The Honolulu Challenge adopted by IUCN and supported by many institutions (including the Bern Convention) requests a substantial increase in resources for invasive alien species management and control, and a better integration of invasive alien species concerns in protected areas and biodiversity hotspots. It also calls for investment in the development and sharing of innovative technologies for control and eradication. It also calls for a better governance of the problem (more collaboration at national level by concerned ministries) and the assessment of the social and economic impacts of invasive alien species. Other aspects of importance are an enhanced knowledge, better data and an improved awareness.

The Honolulu Challenge was also welcomed by COP-13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, was the object of a side-event (with the participation and support of the Bern Convention) and gave rise to a number of very precise commitments by many States and organisations.

6. USE OF OTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENTS (POST AND SANITARY REGULATIONS, WILDLIFE TRADE REGULATIONS) TO PREVENT ENTRY AND SPREAD OF IAS

T-PVS/Inf (2017) 7 – Regulating threats posed by invasive alien species

The Consultant, Mr Han Somsen, presented a report he co-authored with Mr Arie Trouwborst. In their view there are trade-related regulations and inspection (for instance veterinary inspections) that are in place where goods cross borders that have a potential for being used to limit the entry of invasive alien species in many European States. Some specific EU instruments include the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) which concerns live animals and animal products, and the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) which permit fast reaction when food or feed presenting a risk is detected. For plants failing to meet EU plant health requirements, the EUROPHYT System permits fast exchange of information. The IPPC System for plant health is well known, EPPO being its regional organ for implementation.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has adopted Codes for terrestrial and aquatic animals, having extended its mandate to study the impact of diseases on biodiversity loss (although it does not deal with invasive alien species). The Codex Alimentarius does not seem to have a mandate for the control of invasive alien species.

The Group took note of the information presented and requested the Secretariat to make the report available to the Standing Committee so that States may use it appropriately.

7. CODES OF CONDUCT

7.1 European Code of Conduct on Invasive Alien Trees

T-PVS/Inf (2017) 8 – European Code of Conduct on Invasive Alien Trees

The Consultant, Mr Giuseppe Brundu, presented the last version of his report. The Secretariat recalled that the report, under different improved versions had been discussed for two years by the Standing Committee.

The delegate of Spain thanked the Consultant for the document, which is considered really interesting, but expressed its concerns about the possible inclusion of some species that, being exotic, had not confirmed their invading nature. Spain also indicated that with this version they could not support the approval of the document in the Standing Committee and that they will send further amendments to the document.

The Group decided to give a final date for the reception of comments: 16 June.

The Group, taking note of criticism that have been sent to the expert on previous projects, noted that it unanimously supported the Code of Conduct, as a code of conduct is not mandatory. Much of the criticism expressed (mainly by forestry departments) by some States was not supported by the Group of Experts. The Code was well-balanced and scientific references should be maintained (one State had suggested to delete them because of its disagreement with some of the scientific evidence).

The Code should not be weakened beyond recognition as its main aim was to avoid invasive alien species, which was coherent with the purpose of a biodiversity-related convention.

The Group proposed to the Standing Committee the adoption of the recommendation and the endorsement of the Code (appendix 3 to the report).

7.2 European Code of Conduct on International Travel and IAS

T-PVS/Inf (2017) 1 – European Code of Conduct on International Travel and IAS

The Consultant, Mr Riccardo Scalera, presented his report. There is much evidence that this pathway contributes greatly to the spread of invasive alien species. The globalisation and growth of both trade and tourism provides more opportunity than ever before for species to be introduced accidentally or deliberately. New action needs to be developed in co-operation with the trade, tourism and transport sectors to prevent inadvertent introduction. More controls at entry points and an

improved awareness and education need to be implemented to avoid intentional introduction, matched with appropriate legislation.

International trade is a pathway related to other more specific pathways (angling equipment, machinery, organic packing material, ballast waters, recreational boating, etc).

The Code is addressed to a very wide variety of travellers, travel/tourism operators, flight and boat operators, ship and aircraft crews, customs, the military and the general public.

The report will be circulated for comments to Bern Convention delegates.

The Group supported the Code of Conduct and asked to be submitted for possible endorsement by the Standing Committee by way of a draft recommendation (appendix 4 to this report).

7.3 Implementation of the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS

T-PVS/Inf (2017) 5 – European Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS

Ms Monia Anane, from the European Federation of Associations for Hunting (FACE), informed the Group that the Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species was indeed being used by many of the 36 national associations of hunters federated by two organisations. 10 States have sent contributions to FACE explaining how their hunters implement the Code. FACE is also informing hunters how to deal with invasive alien species, having produced some “Best Practice Guidelines for Trapping of Mammals – including 2 invasive alien species. FACE encourages its members to work with governments to develop management plans for invasive alien species. The 2016 report of FACE Biodiversity Manifesto demonstrates the positive contribution of hunting to conservation (29 projects on invasive alien species out of a total of 221 projects).

Hunters are also very much involved in monitoring of species, including invasive alien species, and are encouraged never to deliberately release non-native or hybrid birds used in falconry. They are also involved on a voluntary basis on invasive alien species eradication programme.

7.4 Communicating Codes of Conduct: the case of the European Code of Conduct on Boating and IAS

T-PVS/Inf (2016) 13 – European Code of Conduct on Boating and IAS

Ms Emma Barton, from the European Boating Association (EBA), explained how the Code of Conduct on Boating and IAS is being spread and used through the networks of the EBA, not an easy task as there are around 1.5 million boat owners and 20 million active participants. Fortunately, many of them have a reasonable degree of environmental awareness and are receptive to such message. The work is being distributed and a number of actions to have its principles better-known, through stickers, presence in fairs, targeting awareness on particularly damaging species (killer shrimp or zebra mussel). EBA has 29 federations in 18 countries, so the awareness work has been focused in delivering clear message (particularly through the campaign “check, clean, dry”). EBA has also launched the message that it is in the interest of recreational boating to adopt the Code as otherwise there may be a more stringent – and complicated to integrate – “antifouling legislation”.

8. PROPOSALS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO THE BERN CONVENTION: WORK AHEAD

The Group recommended that the Bern Convention continues to work on invasive alien species, especially on the following issues:

- Best practice and guidelines for Internet trade and e-commerce of invasive alien species;
- Code of Conduct on Biological Waste Disposal, composting and invasive alien species;
- Guidance for ethical/animal welfare respectful wildlife control (focused on invasive alien fauna);
- Guidelines and best practice for communicating invasive alien species;
- Guidance in phyto-purification plants and invasive alien species;
- Code of Conduct on aquaculture and invasive alien species;
- Guidance for biological control of macro-organisms;
- Control of non-native wildlife pathogens.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

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WORKSHOP ON EXPERIENCES ON CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES ON ISLANDS

In the afternoon of 1st June a workshop took place, chaired by Mr Øystein Størkersen, Chair of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention

Keynote speaker

- **Eradication on islands. Is it effective? Does it deliver conservation gains? Is it worth the cost?**
by Mr Piero Genovesi

Other interventions

- **Eradication and control of vertebrate invasive species in Madeira Archipelago: a short review**
presented by Mr Paulo Oliveira (Madeira, Portugal)
- **Some examples of eradications and control in the Canary Islands**
by Mr Juan-Luis Rodriguez-Luengo (Canary islands, Spain)
- **Regional Plan for Eradication and Control of Invasive Plant Species in Sensitive Areas. Some examples**
by Mr João Melo (Azores, Portugal)
- **Island Eradication work in Scotland**
by Mr Paul Walton (Scotland, United Kingdom)
- **Invasive alien species action in the Balearic Islands (two cases, some lessons)**
by Mr Joan Mayol (Balearic Islands, Spain)

As a result of the presentations and discussion a draft recommendation on “control and eradication of invasive alien species on islands” was proposed for the examination and possible adoption of the Standing Committee (appendix 5 to this report).

Appendix 1



Bern Convention Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species

12th meeting
University of Madeira, Funchal (Portugal), 1-3 June 2017

AGENDA

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIR AND WELCOME BY MADEIRAN AUTHORITIES**
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

Relevant documents :

*T-PVS (2015) 10 Report of the 11th meeting of the Group
T-PVS (2016) 12 – Report of the Select Group on IAS*

- 3. INTRODUCTION BY THE SECRETARIAT: PROGRESS ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES UNDER THE CONVENTION WITH OTHER BERN CONVENTION INITIATIVES.**

Relevant Recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee since June 2015

Relevant documents :

*T-PVS/Inf (2016) 13 – Code of Conduct on Recreational Boating and IAS
T-PVS/Inf (2017) 3 – Report of the expert group on eradication of ruddy duck
T-PVS/Inf (2016) 10 – Guidance for governments concerning IAS Pathways Action plans*

- Recommendation No. 185 (2016) on the eradication of the ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palaearctic by 2020
 - Recommendation No. 188 (2016) on the European Code of Conduct on Recreational Boating and Invasive Alien Species
 - Recommendation No. 189 (2016) on the control of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in Europe
- 4. IMPLEMENTATION BY STATES OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON IAS - NATIONAL REPORTS**

Relevant document : *T-PVS/Inf (2017) 9 – National Reports*
 - 5. REPORTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER**
 - 5.1 Status of global work on IAS by the Chair of ISSG (IUCN) Classifying IAS by their environmental impact IUCN policy on biodiversity conservation and synthetic biology**
 - 5.2 European Commission work on Invasive Alien Species: progress in the implementation of the EU Regulation on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species**
 - 5.3 Progress on the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO)**
 - 5.4 Progress on NOBANIS portal**
 - 5.5 Convention on Biological Diversity - The Honolulu Challenge**

6. USE OF OTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENTS (POST AND SANITARY REGULATIONS, WILDLIFE TRADE REGULATIONS) TO PREVENT ENTRY AND SPREAD OF IAS

Regulating threats posed by Invasive Alien Species: Potential of ‘other legal instruments’

Relevant document :

T-PVS/Inf (2017) 7

7. CODES OF CONDUCT

7.1 European Code of Conduct on Invasive Alien Trees

Relevant document :

T-PVS/Inf (2017) 8

7.2 European Code of Conduct on International Travel and IAS

Relevant document :

T-PVS/Inf (2017) 1

7.3 Implementation of the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS

Relevant document :

T-PVS/Inf (2017) 5

7.4 Communicating Codes of Conduct: the case of the European Code of Conduct on Boating and IAS

Relevant document :

T-PVS/Inf (2016) 13

8. PROPOSALS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO THE BERN CONVENTION: WORK AHEAD

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Appendix 2



Strasbourg, 7 June 2017
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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS

12TH MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

1-3 June 2017
Funchal, Madeira (Portugal)

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Appendix 3



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Draft Recommendation No. ... (2017) of the Standing Committee, adopted on ... December 2017, on the European Code of Conduct for Invasive Alien Trees

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. 99 (2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species;

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;

Noting the need to co-operate with all the actors involved in forestry activities in the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of IAS into the territory of the Convention;

Referring to the European Code of Conduct for Invasive Alien Trees [document T-PVS/Inf (2017) 8],

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. Take the European Code of Conduct mentioned above into account while drawing up other relevant codes - or where appropriate - draw up national codes of conduct on invasive alien trees;
2. Collaborate as appropriate with the actors involved in forestry activities in implementing and helping disseminate good practices and codes of conduct aimed at preventing and managing of introduction, release and spread of invasive alien trees;
3. Keep the Standing Committee informed of measures taken to implement this recommendation.

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

Appendix 4



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Draft Recommendation No. ... (2017) of the Standing Committee, adopted on ... December 2017, on the European Code of Conduct on International Travel and Invasive Alien Species

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. 99 (2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species;

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;

Noting the need to co-operate with all the actors involved in international trade, tourism, shipping, ballast water, ground and air transport, including travel/transport agencies, tour operators, flight and boats operators and crews, customers, the military, importers and exporters in the prevention of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species into the territory of the Convention;

Referring to the European Code of Conduct on International Travel and Invasive Alien Species [document T-PVS/Inf (2017) 1],

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. Take the European Code of Conduct mentioned above into account while drawing up other relevant codes - or where appropriate - draw up national codes of conduct on international travel and invasive alien species,

2. Collaborate as appropriate with the actors involved in international travel and trade in implementing and helping disseminate good practice aimed at preventing and managing of introduction, release and spread of invasive alien trees,

3. Keep the Standing Committee informed of measures taken to implement this recommendation;

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

Appendix 5

Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

**Draft Recommendation No. ... (2017) of the Standing Committee, adopted on ...
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. 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 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.