



Convention on the Conservation of
European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 142 (2009) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 26 November 2009, interpreting the CBD definition of invasive alien species to take into account climate change

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

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 Recommendation No. 99 (2003) of the Standing Committee on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS);

Recalling that the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) used definitions on alien species, invasive alien species and introduction as used in CBD decision VI/23 (Guiding principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species);

Recalling those terms

- *alien species*: a species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce.
- *invasive alien species*: an alien species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity.
- *introduction*: the movement by human agency, indirect or direct, of an alien species outside of its natural range (past or present). This movement can be either within a country or between countries or areas beyond national jurisdiction

Worried that native species moving to neighbouring areas may be considered as alien due to the fact that climate change is the result of human action and that such species may be unnecessarily controlled;

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites Observer States to:

1. interpret the term “alien species” for the purpose of the implementation of the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species as not including native species naturally extending their range in response to climate change.