

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats



Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 119 (2006) of the Standing Committee on the conservation of certain endangered species of amphibians and reptiles in Europe

(adopted by the Standing Committee on 30 November 2006)

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

Having regard to the aims of the convention, which are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that the convention gives particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Recalling that Article 3 of the convention requires Parties to take the necessary steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild flora, wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4.1 of the convention requires Parties to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Having regard to Resolution (78) 22 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on threatened amphibians and reptiles in Europe;

Having regard to its Recommendation No. 13 (1988) concerning measures for the protection of critical biotopes of endangered amphibians and reptiles;

Recognising that climate change affects biological diversity in the territory covered by the Convention, including amphibian and reptile species and their habitats;

Recalling the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species - as climate change affects the abundance and spread of invasive alien species and the vulnerability of ecosystems to invasions;

Recalling the 2003 Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity, which includes the commitment to 'halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010', as adopted by Environment Ministers and Heads of delegation from 51 countries in the Pan-European region;

Recalling the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its finding that "unprecedented increased efforts" are needed to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target at national, regional and global levels;

Desirous to halt the loss of amphibian and reptile species in Europe;

Recalling the 2004 Strasbourg Declaration on the role of the Bern Convention in the preservation of biological diversity, and the need to reinforce the implementation and coherence of global and European biodiversity instruments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the European Community Habitats Directives;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 26 (1991) on the conservation of some threatened reptiles in Europe;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 27 (1991) on the conservation of some threatened amphibian species in Europe;

Recalling its Guidelines No. 3 (1993) for recovery plans for species of amphibians and reptiles, which identify the species targeted by this recommendation as needing recovery plans;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the drafting and implementation of action plans of wild fauna species;

Having regard to the action plans for the conservation of: (i) the Italian Agile Frog *Rana latastei*; the Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus* Species Complex (*T. cristatus*, *T. carnifex*, *T. dobrogicus*, *T. karelinii*); the Meadow Viper *Vipera ursinii*; the Aesculapian Snake *Zamenis longissimus*; and the Sand Lizard *Lacerta agilis* [documents T-PVS/Inf (2006) 16; T-PVS/Inf (2006) 17; T-PVS/Inf (2006) 21; T-PVS/Inf (2006) 19; and T-PVS/Inf (2006) 18, respectively],

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. draw up and implement national action plans or other national measures, as appropriate, on these five species taking into account the European action plans mentioned above;
2. co-operate, as appropriate, with other Contracting Parties and observer States in the conservation of these five amphibian and reptile species;
3. keep the Standing Committee informed of the measures taken to implement this recommendation, and of the results for the species concerned,

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