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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Group of Experts
on Invasive Alien Species**

Alghero (Sardinia, Italy), 20-22 June 2013

10th meeting

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REPORT

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

CONTENTS

1. Meeting report	4
2. Appendix 1: Agenda	11
3. Appendix 2: List of participants	16
4. Appendix 3: Compilation of National Reports	18
5. Appendix 4: Draft Recommendation on the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species	19
6. Appendix 5: Draft Recommendation on the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species	20

The 10th meeting of the Convention Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species was held in Alghero, Italy, from 20 to 21 June 2013.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

1. take note of the report of the meeting and, in particular of the very good progress in the implementation of the Convention's European Strategy on IAS and in the preparation in the framework of the Convention on innovative voluntary Codes of Conduct and Guidelines;
2. thank Italian Conservation authorities for the excellent preparation of the meeting and all governments and international organisations for the very good input;
3. examine and, if appropriate, adopt the following draft recommendations:
 - Draft Recommendation on the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species (appendix 4);
 - Draft Recommendation on European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species (appendix 5).
4. take due note of the proposals of the Group for future work on invasive alien species when adopting its programme of activities and budget for 2014-2015.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chair, Ms Branka Tavzes (Slovenia), welcomed participants (list in appendix 2) and thanked the Italian authorities for their hospitality in hosting the meeting in Alghero.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The Agenda was adopted as it appears in Appendix 1 to this report.

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

Mr Fernández-Galiano highlighted the pioneer work the Convention in promoting European intergovernmental work in the field of IAS and the variety of matters dealt with in the twenty years of existence of the Group of Experts. He recalled, in particular the elaboration of the “European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species” in 2003, and the follow up of its implementation by states. The Convention had carried out this work in close cooperation with other international partners such as IUCN, the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO), the European Commission, the European Environment Agency and other. Since the last meeting of the Group in Malta in 2011, the Standing Committee had adopted the following recommendations:

- Recommendation No. 153 (2011) on the Charter on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity on European Islands;
- Recommendation No. 154 (2011) on the European Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species;
- Recommendation No. 158 (2012) on Conservation translocations under changing climatic conditions;
- Recommendation No. 160 (2012) on the European Code of Conduct for Botanical Gardens on Invasive Alien Species;
- Recommendation No. 161 (2012) on the European Code of Conduct for Zoological Gardens and Aquaria on Invasive Alien Species.

It was also recalled that a select group had met in Rome in 2012 to further the priorities set by the Group and to discuss new ideas. A study of pathways had been launched. As the EU is in the process of elaborating a dedicated legal instrument on IAS, the Convention had chosen to further its work on voluntary codes of conduct and guidelines, which will help states advance in prevention of new arrivals and containment of IAS in the territory of the Convention.

4. IMPLEMENTATION BY STATES OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON IAS - NATIONAL REPORTS

A number of delegations presented orally their national reports (Armenia, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Turkey and United Kingdom). The Chair thanked states for having presented a substantial number of national reports, a good way to know the work carried out in this field by states. Twenty-four reports were received. (See appendix 3).

5. REPORTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER

5.1 Status of global work on IAS by the chair of ISSG (IUCN)

Mr Piero Genovesi, chair of ISSG (IUCN), outlined the IUCN priorities in relation to the IAS, framing the issue in the context of the international and European cooperation related to the prioritization of species for early warning and rapid response systems that may permit to tackle new arrivals, the need to prioritise pathways as well as have appropriate mapping information. He informed the Group about the outcome of the UICN World Conservation Congress held in 2012, referring specifically to the Resolution 21 relative to IAS. IUCN was strengthening cooperation with the CBD and its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), improving the

interoperability between the Global Invasive Species Database and the Red List, as well as with Red List of Ecosystems and World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). Such crossing of data will support priority actions.

Mr Genovesi underlined particularly the issue of the information and knowledge sharing in the global context. He informed the participants about the work by the CBD Liaison group on IAS and the latest meeting hosted by FAO in Rome (28/02-1/03 2013) – where the awareness-raising and information sharing in the IAS context was identified as a need.

Detailed information was provided on the Global IAS Information Partnership (GIASIPartnership), the Global Invasive Species Database, Red List and Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS). The main objective of these instruments is to improve ability of countries to respond to conventions, improve access to information in general and to the Red List in particular, and to design policies with special focus on effective prevention and management activities. Particular work areas were also mentioned such as the Island Biodiversity Database and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership - CBD-mandated initiative - that provides an important interface between policy and biodiversity-related science; collaborative ISSG initiatives on prioritization of pathways, identification of species with the worst impacts and the prioritization of species in protected and urban areas.

5.2 European Commission work on Invasive Alien Species: progress in the elaboration of a dedicated legislative instrument on IAS

Ms. Valentina Bastino (European Commission) provided an overview of the EU legislative proposal on Invasive Alien Species which is due to be proposed to the EU Council and Parliament by the end of summer 2013.

She reminded that an action at EU level was progressing first in the elaboration in the past years of an IAS Community strategy and recently in the preparation of a dedicated legal instrument. Because of the lack of internal border controls between Member States, a coordinated approach is necessary at the outer borders of the EU to stop the introduction and spread of IAS in the territory of the European Union. Once an invasive alien species becomes established it may be harder for one Member State to control its dispersal; furthermore, a lack of action in one Member State can create serious damage to neighbouring Member States.

She also recalled that at present several Member States had been developing a variety of valuable initiatives but using different approaches. There is no systematic formal requirement for risk analysis in connection with intentional introduction of non-native species that may affect biodiversity, and accidental or negligent introductions (75%) remain largely unregulated at both Member State and Community level. A new EU dedicated legislative instrument is therefore proposed to address this important policy gap and to ensure that there is a comprehensive EU framework to effectively tackle the problem.

The new legislative instrument would contain provisions on a number of fields, such as a) prevention of entry of IAS into the EU territory and prevention of their spread, including ban on import, possession, use, trade, and release into environment; b) early detection and rapid eradication, including Member States' obligation for surveillance, notification and if necessary eradication; c) management of established IAS. The implementing mechanisms foresee the establishment of a common Notification system, the establishment of specialized EU Committee and the set-up of a shared information system. There will be a listing of IAS of EU concern based on clear criteria and risk assessment. Applying the principle of subsidiarity, IAS of national concern will be dealt by states in their national legislation, not within an EU instrument.

Finally Ms Bastino informed that the next steps for the legislative proposal will include the finalization and adoption of the proposal by the Commission, transmission to the Council and Parliament for co-decision, and establishment of list of IAS of Union concern, that will be established on the common agreement of the Members States. The latter will be based on Risk assessment that would analyze environmental, social and economic impact of the IAS.

Many participants welcomed the information presented and asked a number of questions on a variety of topics, including: on the possibility of third countries to “opt-in” this legal instrument, on how it would affect species trade within the Union, on the type of risk assessment that was foreseen, on liability, on the timing of the listing exercise (regarding IAS of EU concern), on updates, on the information system to be developed, on possible derogations, on species native in the EU that may be IAS in other EU states, etc.

The Chair thanked Ms Bastino for the information, congratulated the EC for this first legally binding instrument on IAS and hoped that the Bern Convention could help in bridging the obligations in this new instrument with neighbouring states. The Secretariat saw a possible role for the Convention to extend some of the provisions (by way of recommendations or otherwise) to other European states. It was clear it was in the interest of all European states to share a common alert and information system.

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

Ms Sarah Brunel reminded traditional EPPO priorities that paid attention to pests of cultivated plants (i.e. insects, fungi, bacteria, viruses) and how they had been revised to include the protection of biodiversity, in the understanding that plant protection also applied to the wide environment. Thus also wild plants can be threatened by the introduction and spread of pests, and also by 'invasive alien plants' (IAP) which can seriously disturb and destroy natural plant communities. Therefore EPPO started to work more specifically on invasive alien plants, in particular to analyze the risks presented by specific invasive alien plant species for the EPPO region and recommend measures to prevent their introduction and spread via international trade.

Ms Brunel stressed that potential risks are identified through the maintenance of *EPPO Alert Lists* that draw the attention of EPPO member countries to certain pests possibly presenting a risk to them and achieve early warning. A number of species are recommended for regulation under EPPO rules. The *EPPO Reporting Service* is published to deliver information gathered from National plant protection organizations, literature and internet surveys. *The List of invasive alien plants* is managed as a priority to help countries endangered by these species to consider measures to prevent their introduction and spread or to manage unwanted species. EPPO organizes regularly training courses on the EPPO prioritization process for IAPs. Also information is being gathered by EPPO on active cases of eradication in the Mediterranean, with over thirty projects recorded and 90 management actions undertaken. EPPO continues to develop standards on management of some IAPs: the next to come on aquatic species.

Ms Brunel also stressed that EPPO pays a particular attention to the promotion of information exchange via its publications/databases and international conferences. 2013 European Environment Agency report on *Late Lessons from Early Warning* underlined the need for efficient information exchange to prevent risks related to the IPA. She informed that the issue of communication of IAS will be dealt with on the occasion of an international conference jointly organised by EPPO/Council of Europe/IUCN in Oeiras (Portugal) in October 2013.

5.4 Progress on DAISIE database

Ms Helen Roy presented the progress on DAISIE database and the development of the lists of non-native species (NNS). She stressed that the latter are seen as an essential tool in the management of biological invasions. Species information is authored and reviewed by DAISIE partners and/or by expert contributors from around Europe. The species lists offer information on the biology and ecology of the species, habitat and distribution characteristics, introduction pathway, invasion trend, impacts and management methods including ways of prevention. Access to this resource is provided through three main search facilities: search for information species; search for experts; and search for regions.

Ms Roy also stressed that although the DAISIE represent obvious advantages in terms of species' coverage and data display possibilities, such information requires regular updates to reflect the dynamic nature of biological invasions, otherwise it will soon be outdated. Within last two years

several updates of the DAISIE database have been made to keep it up-to-date. These have included additional species lists from some understudied regions of Europe and new records from other regions. DAISI developed links between collaborators within an information network for alien species aiming to provide the required knowledge and scientific advice to support decision making.

Ms Roy is informed that important progress is being achieved by establishing collaborative links with the COST Action - intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology. She informed that the COST Action in relation to the IAS will facilitate enhanced knowledge gathering and sharing through a network of experts, providing support to a European IAS information system which will enable effective and informed decision-making at a European level. An overarching priority will be to identify the needs and formats for early warning tools and rapid response, review of IAS pathways and impacts and information by different user groups.

5.5 Progress on NOBANIS portal

Ms Melanie Josefsson (Sweden) informed the participants about recent developments in NOBANIS network that includes now 17 participating countries, including a new member, Belarus. The present focus is on reprogramming of the NOBANIS portal (central database, fact sheets and access to national statistics) and on harmonization of the databases as regards to pathways, taxonomy, spelling and source areas. The new focus is being put on cooperation with other information systems such as COST, ESENIAS, EASIN, GIASIP.

Ms Josefsson outlined the results of the pilot project implemented by NOBANIS in 2010-2011 *Risk mapping for non-native species in Europe*, funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The project report (now available on NOBANIS portal) aims at providing NOBANIS countries and other European countries with a useful tool for prioritizing their measures to prevent the introduction of IAS. The report underlines that a useful predictor can be the invasiveness in other countries with similar conditions and since few species are able to colonise the full range of climatic conditions in Europe. The project further develops the use of biogeographic regions as a tool for warning European countries when a new, potentially invasive species is under establishment. By mapping the current distribution of 100 selected alien species from terrestrial, brackish and freshwater environments, whose distribution range is expectedly still expanding, risk profiles are created and hence the countries will be able to make national alarm lists for these species. The primary target group of the project is managers in both the cooperating NOBANIS countries and other European countries.

5.7 Applying the Island Biodiversity Charter and its Action Plan to the Canary Islands: recent work on IAS control

Mr Juan Luis Rodríguez Luengo presented the work done by the Canary Islands government on the control and eradication of IAS. The Spanish catalogue of IAS includes species that concern specifically this insular region. Main species of concern are the king snake (which is now proved to be a powerful predator of endemic lizards in Gran Canaria Island) and two herbivores: rabbit (decimating many species of endemic flora, including some endangered species) and feral goats (in La Gomera Island). Unfortunately the economic crisis of Spain and the strong cuts in environmental budgets have meant the discontinuation of a certain number of control programs, such as those on Palm trees, which are severely affected by pests.

7. CODES OF CONDUCT

7.1 Prioritisation of Pathway for Codes of Conduct

[Document T PVS/Inf (2013) 2]

Ms Helen Roy presented the report on the prioritisation of pathways. She stressed that development of comprehensive IAS-related strategies at European level requires easily accessible and high quality information and a comprehensive approach to exploring pathways for efficient management of biological invasions. Thus the analysis of which pathways are responsible for the introduction on IAS in Europe is key to guide efforts, including the elaboration of voluntary codes DAISIE and GISD were recognized as major sources of information on IAS and therefore it was agreed that harmonization of a large proportion of the pathway information within the two databases was needed. In fact, 81% of pathway entries for a species in DAISIE matched with ease to defined

GISD pathways. However, for the remaining species further work is required to elucidate the appropriate pathway relevant to both databases. Further work is also required to ensure that the definition for each pathway term is explicit and clear. Additional next steps will include undertaking the same process with an additional database such as the CABI Invasive Species Compendium.

Ms Roy recalled that the Prototype of IAS Pathway Management Resource was developed by the IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group with the support of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Work has just begun on the phase II of this project, which includes expanding the schema based on the result of the *'harmonization of pathways terms'* exercise and operationalizing the site. Data and information on a selection of pathways will also be recorded. Next Steps will consist in enlisting partners for future cooperation and establishing a task force or a working group for further development of the Pathway Management resource.

The group discussed some aspects of the information presented, noting the need to make a more refined analysis including the time scale. Pathways that may have been very important for the introduction of IAS in the past may be now less relevant, and other pathways perhaps identified as secondary might be now major ways of introduction of new species.

7.2. Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS

[Document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 20]

The Consultant, Mr Andrea Monaco, presented the draft Code of Conduct, underlying the progress achieved since last meeting in Malta in 2011. Mr Monaco provided explanations to major revisions to the first draft stressing that the revised draft is the result of a wide consultation and aims to balance and harmonize different perspectives provided by stakeholders involved. The revised draft took into account the comments and suggestions received from the Group of Experts on IAS as well as from the EU Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation (FACE); a principle on “animal aided hunting” (falconry, ferreting, etc.) was introduced; as well as the analysis of data extracted from DAISIE database on the role of hunting as a pathway of introduction to Europe of alien mammals and birds since 1900. Mr. Monaco noted that the role of hunting as a pathway of introduction of alien mammals and birds has changed over time and the number of intentional introductions of alien species for hunting purposes has considerably decreased since the ‘80s.

Mr Monaco recalled the six principles of the code as well as informed the Group about the main issues of criticism expressed by the FACE. The issue of dogs used for hunting and lost or intentionally abandoned was a touchy one. Feral dogs may cause a number of problem interaction with wild species, including hybridisation with wolves, recorded in a number of states.

The Group discussed some details of the draft Code and made some comments concerning a number of issues (including stray dogs). To some it was not clear that feral dogs were mainly a problem caused by dogs lost by hunters, and perhaps it would be wiser to mention the problem but carefully reword the text. All participants were in favour of sending the code to the Standing Committee for possible adoption, but also suggested additional consultation with national associations of hunters, as the code will not be of much used if it is not endorsed and used by hunters.

It was decided that the experts submit their final comments to the Consultant by 15 July. The Consultant will prepare a consolidated version of the draft to be ready for endorsement by the Standing Committee in December 2013.

A draft recommendation (see appendix 4 to this report) will be proposed for adoption by the Standing Committee to the Convention.

7.2 Code of conduct on Recreational Fishing and IAS

[Document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 1 + addendum]

The consultant, Mr Mark Owen, presented the draft Code and informed that the text incorporates the following elements: articles relating to IAS from the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries and the European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity; the concept of bio-security for recreational fishing; responsibilities for fishing organisations and individual fishers; as well as reference to the freshwater & marine environments.

He described the three sections of the draft (Awareness, Education, Research, Training & Monitoring; Fisheries Management; and Bio-security for Recreational Fishing) and stressed the need for the code to be practically implemented. The latter implies a collaboration of many different actors, appropriate resources, and support by Member States working in partnership with recreational fisheries.

Ms Melanie Josefsson emphasised the need for awareness rising at a local level which needs to be underlined in the Code.

The participants expressed their general support to the draft, although they expressed the need for the draft to have more opinions, specifically from the national angling associations. The Secretariat will address a formal letter to governments who will be asked to collect comments from national angling associations. The Consultant will prepare a consolidated version of the draft to be circulated widely. As the text was seen for the first time a wide consultation is necessary so that the fishing community may discuss it thoroughly, including the organisations involved in the elaboration and discussion of the European Charter on Recreational Fishing and Biodiversity endorsed by the Standing Committee in 2010. Once the consultations are over, the document will be presented to the Standing Committee, most likely in 2014.

7.3 Information on global Codes of Conduct in marine and freshwater ecosystems

Mr Matthias Halwart, FAO, presented his report by stressing that, despite the IAS adverse impacts, species introductions remain a valid means to improve production and economic benefit from fisheries and aquaculture. For the FAO, the issue is not to ban alien species - or to abandon regulation of their movement - but rather to assess associated risks and benefits and then, if appropriate, develop and implement a plan for their responsible use. To assist the countries in the responsible use of introduced species, the FAO developed a legislative framework that includes the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), an overarching agreed international instrument, and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Code that includes protocols for implementing the CCRF. These codes call for accurate assessments of the risks of using exotic species and are promoting the creation of information sources and an exchange of information on exotic species, their biological and ecological attributes, and potential impacts. The Asia Regional Technical Guidelines were also developed to deal with introduced pathogens risk through trans-boundary movement of live aquatic animals, as well as Precautionary Approach to Species Introductions to handle uncertainty and incomplete information.

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has created the Database on Introductions of Aquatic Species (DIAS) to serve as an important initial summary and registry of introduced species, including freshwater species, molluscs, crustaceans and marine species. The database includes records of species introduced or transferred from one country to another, maps demonstrating the extent of introductions, number of introductions by country as well as the species introduced for aquaculture purposes. This DIAS has been incorporated into FAO FishFinder, a relational database that contains a variety of information on approximately 20 000 of the world's species of finfish.

Mr Halwart referred to the work of the the inter-Agency Liaison Group on IAS, where the FAO participates as a core member. He informed that The Terms of Reference & Modus Operandi of the Liaison Group were revised in Rome in February 2013. He reminded that in the period up to 2020 the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and in particular Aichi Target 9, will provide the main focus of the work of this group. The Liaison Group will work by exchanging information on relevant policies and activities to ensure that they are complementary so as to optimize efficiency, build synergies and avoid any unnecessary duplications. It will promote cooperation at all levels, and specifically at the national level, through each organization's national and regional focal points or the equivalents. Mr Halwart stressed that if there is a certain interest from member states, they are encouraged to participate in the meetings and work of the Group.

8. IAS AND PROTECTED AREAS

8.1. European Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS

[Document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 22]

Mr Andrea Monaco informed the Group about major revisions of the first draft guidelines and the work achieved in promotion of the draft since last meeting in Malta in 2011. He informed that the draft guidelines were presented at the meeting of Bern Convention Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks (Strasbourg, September 2011) and the comments by the members of this group were integrated in the text. Case studies and inputs from all over the world, including those presented in the book “*Plant invasions in protected areas: patterns, problems and challenges*” (Eds. Foxcroft, Pysek, Richardson and Genovesi). The guideline on “networking to exchange information on IAS” was extended to surveillance and monitoring; the emphasis was also put on importance of involving the local communities and the general public.

A web survey on protected areas and IAS was also conducted to collect quantitative information and case studies on threats, top invasive species (animals and plants), impacts, management options as well as key impediments in dealing with IAS. The analysis of survey results (38 responses from 21 European countries) show that Protected Areas tend to focus more on responding to invasions more than working on prevention; active management options are under-represented despite the fact that they are considered as best strategies to tackle the IAS problem. Limited resources, lack of capacity and lack of awareness are recognized as most indicated key impediments in management of IAS invasions.

The Consultant presented 8 guidelines and stressed that in general they remain as presented in Malta in 2011 with few exceptions that concern the reference to “networking to exchange information on IAS” which is presently extended to surveillance and monitoring and the emphasis put on involvement of the local communities and the general public into management of the IAS.

The draft guidelines were supported by the Group experts who were invited to submit their final comments to the Consultant by the 15 July. The Consultant will prepare a consolidated version of the draft to be ready for endorsement by the Standing Committee in December 2013.

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

The Group proposed that Bern Convention future action on IAS includes some of the following:

- continuation of the work on identification of pathways
- elaboration of a Code of Conduct on Forestry and IAS
- continuation of the work on communicating IAS to different targets (general public, people interested in nature, scientists)
- assessment of the use of Codes of Conduct and their effects
- promotion of existing European Codes of conduct (and promoting similar codes at world level, as principles and tools are basically the same)
- threats to red list species by IAS and, in particular, effect of introduced herbivores on threatened endemics
- support of existing efforts of fast risk analysis and prioritisation of species for prevention, containment or eradication
- discuss with FAO possible common work on aquaculture and IAS
- analysis of IAS problems in freshwater ecosystems, and of canals and recreational boating as pathways of dispersal of IAS

The group saw also a possible work of the Bern Convention (and the Group of experts) –in close collaboration with the European Commission- in examining in which ways third countries (i.e. non-members of EU) could benefit from the information systems to be elaborated for the implementation of the dedicated legal instrument in preparation, once it is adopted and starts its implementation phase.

Third countries might also contribute with information on IAS in their territory, participate as appropriate in early warning / rapid response systems, etc. The Convention might also be a good framework to disseminate and extend good practice to the whole territory of the Convention, etc. Many possibilities of collaboration and synergy could be envisaged once the EU adopts an instrument on IAS.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

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Appendix 2



Bern Convention Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species

10th meeting
Alghero, Sardinia (Italy), 20-22 June 2013

DRAFT AGENDA

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIR

by Ms Branka Tavzes (Slovenia)

2. WELCOME BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES

by Mr Giuseppe Brundu (Italy)

3. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

Relevant document :

T-PVS (2011) 6 Report of the 9th meeting

4. 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 2011

Relevant documents :

T-PVS/Notes (2013) 3 Relevant adopted texts

T-PVS/Inf (2011) 8 rev.- Charter on Biological Diversity on Islands

T-PVS/Inf (2011) 1 rev – Code of Conduct on Pets and IAS

T-PVS/Inf (2012) 19 – IUCN Guidelines on Re-introductions and other conservation translocations

T-PVS/Inf (2012) 1 – European Code of Conduct for Botanical Gardens on IAS

T-PVS/Inf (2011) 26 – European Code of Conduct on Zoological Gardens and Aquaria and IAS

- Recommendation No. 153 (2011) on the Charter on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity on European Islands
- Recommendation No. 154 (2011) on the European Code of Conduct on Pets and Invasive Alien Species
- Recommendation No. 158 (2012) on Conservation translocations under changing climatic conditions
- Recommendation No. 160 (2012) on the European Code of Conduct for Botanical Gardens on Invasive Alien Species
- Recommendation No. 161 (2012) on the European Code of Conduct for Zoological Gardens and *Aquaria* on Invasive Alien Species

5. IMPLEMENTATION BY STATES OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON IAS - National reports

Relevant document :

T-PVS/Inf (2013) 4 – National Reports

The delegations of Armenia, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and United Kingdom will be invited to make short (7-10 minutes) presentations.

6. REPORTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER *[10 minutes each]***6.1 Status of global work on IAS by the Chair of ISSG (IUCN)**

by Mr Piero Genovesi

6.2 European Commission work on Invasive Alien Species: progress in the elaboration of a dedicated legislative instrument on IAS

by Ms Valentina Bastino (European Commission)

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

by Ms Sarah Brunel

6.4 Progress on DAISIE database

by Ms Helen Roy

6.5 Progress on NOBANIS portal

by Ms Melanie Josefsson

6.6 Applying the Island Biodiversity Charter and its Action Plan to the Canary Islands: recent work on IAS control

by Mr Juan Luis Rodríguez Luengo

7. CODES OF CONDUCT**7.1 Prioritisation of Pathway for Codes of Conduct**

by Ms Helen Roy

*Relevant document :**T-PVS/Inf (2013) 2***7.2 Code of conduct on Hunting and IAS**

by Mr Andrea Monaco

*Relevant document :**T-PVS/Inf (2013) 20***7.3 Code of conduct on Recreational Fishing and IAS**

by Mr Mark Owen

*Relevant document :**T-PVS/Inf (2013) 1+ addendum***7.4 Information on global Codes of Conduct in marine and freshwater ecosystems**

by Mr Matthias Halwart, FAO

8. IAS AND PROTECTED AREAS**8.1 European Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS**

by Mr Andrea Monaco

*Relevant document :**T-PVS/Inf (2013) 22***9. PROPOSALS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO THE BERN CONVENTION: WORK AHEAD****10. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR****11. OTHER BUSINESS**

Appendix 3

NATIONAL REPORTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

These are to be found in document T-PVS (2013) 5 addendum.

Appendix 4



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Draft Recommendation No. ... (2013) of the Standing Committee, examined on 6 December 2013, on the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species

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;

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 its Recommendation No. 128 (2007) on the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity;

Having regard to the EC's Sustainable Hunting Initiative;

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 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;

Noting the need to co-operate with all the actors involved in hunting activities in the prevention of the entry, release and spread of IAS into the territory of the Convention;

Referring to the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species [document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 20];

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 hunting and IAS;
2. Collaborate as appropriate with the private sector involved in hunting activities in implementing and helping disseminate good practices and codes of conduct aimed at preventing entry, release and spread of invasive alien species;
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

Standing Committee

Draft Recommendation No. ... (2013) of the Standing Committee, examined on 6 December 2013, on the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, in accordance with 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 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, as well as the conservation guidelines of the Africa-Eurasian Migratory Waterfowl Agreement;

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

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, adopted 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 efforts of States to build sound ecological networks in the framework of the Convention and the Council Directive 92/43/33C on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, in particular the Emerald Network and the Natura 2000 Network;

Conscious that protected areas are indeed very appropriate places where to study, control and contain the spread of invasive alien species;

Referring to the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species [document T-PVS/Inf (2013) 22];

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. draw up national strategies to control invasive alien species in protected areas, in particular there where endangered native flora and/or fauna may be at risk from such alien species; take into account in that context of the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species mentioned above;

2. instruct managers of protected areas and other appropriate conservation staff to collaborate in the tasks involved in monitoring, control and containment of invasive alien species, making sure that management plans take due account of the need to deal with invasive alien species in protected areas;
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.